

**2027 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology
Austin, Texas**

6–9 January 2027

Call for Papers Opens: 1 May 2026

Final Submission Deadline: 30 June 2026

Reflection on the Power of Place

The organizing committee of the 2027 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology invites you to Austin, Texas, for the 60th annual SHA conference. The 2027 SHA conference will be held at the Austin Marriott Downtown in the heart of the city. Located on East Cesar Chavez in downtown Austin, the conference hotel is as close as it gets to some of the city's best features, including historic institutions such as the state capitol, the haunted Driskill Hotel, the walking trails of Ladybird Lake and the Greenbelt, and live music and vibrant nightlife, all of which come together to define Austin's "weird" cultural identity.

Our conference theme, Reflection on the Power of Place, invites you to consider how locations both create and conversely are shaped by culture. Through various forms of storytelling, collective action, and events, places can become powerful expressions of identity. In exploring this theme, we recognize that our inquiries are deeply rooted in the unique and diverse histories and identities of the places we study. The vast region that we today call Texas has served as a powerful anchor to Indigenous communities' cultural and spiritual practices for millennia. Communities such as the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Karankawa, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa, and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo have and continue to define its cultural landscape.

Beyond that, Texas has seen many flags shape and reshape its culture and history. Between the Spanish and French Empires, the Mexican and Texas Republics, the United States, and the Confederacy, the geographic region that is Texas has long served as a backdrop through which global history has played out. Texas' sense of place is embodied through its symbolism, architecture, and iconic landscapes. Its material record reflects the place-bound stories of those who experienced, responded to, and negotiated life within its boundaries.

Historical archaeology in Texas is an ever-growing and vibrant community of professionals who bring wide-ranging perspectives and expertise to the field. Educational institutions across the state, such as University of Texas at Austin and San Antonio, Texas Tech University, Texas State University, Southern Methodist University, and Rice University have long histories of pushing the frontiers of engaged research with descendant communities, answering important questions of early colonial encounters, and addressing more-recent issues of diasporic experiences. Texas A&M University boasts one of the oldest degree-granting programs in the

United States for nautical archaeology. The Texas Historical Commission provides immense statewide support to research and preservation efforts through the documentation of over 88,000 archaeological sites across Texas. Building on this foundation, cultural resource management and academic archaeologists have launched numerous projects across the state with recent and current projects at the Antioch Colony and Bolivar Archaeological Project, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and the Alamo. To explore earlier Indigenous histories in precolonial Texas, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site celebrates the rich lives of ancestral Caddo in northeast Texas.

The year 2027 marks the 60th anniversary of the SHA annual conference, an event that was born deep in the heart of Texas. Texas has played a role in some important firsts in the society's history: the first annual conference was held at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas in 1967. Then in 1978, Kathleen Gilmore, an SMU-trained historical archaeologist specializing in Spanish-colonial Texas missions, became the society's first female president, paving the way to further inclusivity in the society. These milestones continue to inspire our current efforts to foster diversity and innovation within the field. As historical archaeology continues to confront the ever-changing cultural climate, we invite you to look back to our own historical roots as the Society for Historical Archaeology. Through this conference's sessions, social events, and field trips, we look forward to drawing on our disciplinary history to envision a better future together.

The organizing committee is excited to host the SHA conference back where it all began in Texas, and we look forward to reflecting on the influence that Austin and the state of Texas have on the future of archaeological praxis.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Chair: Rachel Feit (Acacia Heritage Consulting)

Program Chair: Kelton Sheridan (Southern Methodist University)

Terrestrial Co-Chairs: Tamra Walter (Texas Tech University), Aina Dodge (Texas Parks and Wildlife)

Underwater Chair: Amy Borgens (Texas Historical Commission), Hunter Whitehead (Bearcat Maritime Heritage), Aleck Tan (Pacific Legacy, Inc.)

Local Arrangements Committee: Maximillian Hall (Acacia Heritage Consulting), Brad Jones (Texas Historical Commission), Sarah Chesney (Texas Historical Commission)

Workshops and Roundtable Lunch Coordinator: Jade Luiz (MSU Denver)

SESSION FORMATS

Please read this section carefully to see changes from preceding years. By submitting an abstract in response to this Call for Papers, the author(s) consents to having their abstract, name(s), and affiliation(s) posted on the SHA website or listed in other published formats.

General Information

Abstract submissions should be done through the online system at <https://www.conftool.com/sha2027>. Each individual submitting an abstract, panelist, and discussant must first create a user profile in the online system, which includes their name, professional affiliation, address, contact information, program division (whether terrestrial or underwater), and agreement with the SHA Code of Ethics, the SHA Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the SHA Conference Code of Conduct. User profiles from previous conferences are not carried over, so you must create a new profile for the 2027 conference before you can pay for and submit your abstract.

Once you have created your profile, you will be required to pay the US\$25.00 abstract submission fee. When this is done, you will be allowed to submit your abstract. There is a 150-word limit for all abstract submissions. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please check the title and abstract for your submission carefully. The Program Committee is not responsible for correcting any misspellings and grammatical errors.

The SHA 2027 Conference Committee hopes to encourage flexibility in the types of sessions offered. Sessions can take the form of formal symposia, panel discussions, or three-minute forums, and each session organizer may organize the time within each session as they wish. Sessions may contain any combination of papers, discussants, and/or group discussion. More than one discussion segment is permitted within a symposium and a formal discussant is encouraged but not required. All papers and discussion segments will be 15 minutes long. We encourage participants to submit their abstracts as early as possible. During the conference period, participants will be allowed to serve as

Primary Symposium Organizer—one time during the conference.

Primary Author of paper (symposium or general session) or poster—one time during the conference.

Discussant—one time during the conference.

Participant in a panel/forum—one time during the conference.

Panel/Forum Moderator—one time during the conference.

Secondary Author or Secondary Organizer—as many times as desired. No guarantee can be offered regarding “double booking,” although every effort will be made to avoid conflicts.

Each session organizer and individual presenter at the SHA 2027 conference must submit their abstract(s) by the 30 June deadline and pay a nonrefundable US\$25.00 per abstract fee. In addition, all presenters, organizers, panelists, and discussants must register for the 2027 conference by 1 November 2026 at the full conference rate. If the author of a single-authored paper is not able to attend the conference and has designated another individual to deliver their paper, the author of the single-authored paper must still register for the conference at the full conference rate by 1 November 2026. For papers or posters with multiple authors, only one of the paper's/poster's authors must register for the conference by 1 November 2026 for the paper/poster to remain on the program.

NOTE IMPORTANT POLICY: All presenters and session organizers at the SHA 2027 conference will be required to register for the conference at the full conference rate by 1 November 2026 to remain on the conference program. Those who fail to register by 1 November 2026 will not be allowed to present their paper/poster or have their paper/poster presented for them. This policy will be strictly enforced. For papers or posters with multiple authors, only one of the paper's/poster's authors must register for the conference by 1 November to remain on the program. All panelists and discussants must also register at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2026 in order to participate in a session. Session organizers should advise potential participants in their session of this requirement when soliciting their involvement.

Advance conference registration for SHA members will be US\$200, for nonmembers US\$300, for SHA student members US\$50, and for student nonmembers US\$140.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Individual Papers and Posters

Papers are presentations including theoretical, methodological, or data information that synthesize broad regional or topical subjects based upon completed research, focus on research currently in progress, or discuss the findings of completed small-scale studies. All individual papers will be 15 minutes long. Using the information and keywords provided, the program chairs will assign individual papers and posters to sessions organized by topic, region, or time period, and will assign a chair to each session. The assigned session chair is responsible for providing a computer for use by presenters in their general session.

Please note: If you are presenting a paper as part of a symposium, your submission is not considered an individual contribution. You should submit your abstract as a symposium presenter.

Posters are freestanding, mounted exhibits with text and graphics, etc. that illustrate ongoing or completed research projects. Bulletin boards will be provided. Authors are expected to set up their own displays and be present at their displays during their designated poster session. Authors

are encouraged to include contact information on their posters and leave business cards next to their poster so viewers can contact them with questions at a later date.

Formal Symposia

These consist of four or more papers organized around a central theme, region, or project. All formal symposium papers will be 15 minutes long. We encourage symposium organizers to include papers that reflect both terrestrial and underwater aspects of their chosen topics.

Symposium organizers shall pay the US\$25.00 abstract submission fee and submit the session abstract online before individuals participating in their symposium submit their own abstracts. The organizers will be required to list the speakers in their symposium—in the correct speaking order—during the abstract submission process and provide three keywords. Symposium organizers are encouraged to use the Structure Information section of the symposium abstract submittal page to give more details about their session, (e.g., number of breaks, order of discussants if more than one will be used).

Symposium organizers shall communicate the formal title of the symposium to all participants in their session before the latter submit their individual abstracts, so that all submissions are linked to the correct session. Symposium organizers are responsible for ensuring that all presenters in their sessions have submitted their completed abstracts prior to the close of the Call for Papers—30 June 2026—and are aware of the 1 November 2026 deadline for presenters to register for the 2027 conference.

Symposium organizers will be the primary point of contact for session participants on such issues as changes to titles and/or abstracts, audiovisual requirements for a session, order of presentation, and cancellations. Organizers must direct any changes in authors, presenters, or affiliations to the Program Chairs at shaAustin2027@gmail.com. One-day and guest registrations for forum panelists are not permitted.

Note: Once the overall symposium abstract is approved by the Program Chairs, the symposium organizer will be permitted to submit a second abstract for a paper in their symposium at no additional cost. The second abstract must be for a paper in the organizer's symposium, not for a different session.

Open and Closed Symposia

In keeping with the successful 2026 format, symposium organizers can now choose whether their symposium is closed or open to other submissions. If a session is designated as 'open' by the symposium organizer, then other authors can submit individual papers to that session once approval has been given by the symposium organizer; the 2027 Program Committee may also direct appropriate papers to the session. Additional papers will be subject to approval by the symposium organizer. Organizers must still start with a minimum of four papers in a formal symposium.

The SHA website will feature a regularly updated list of the open symposia at <https://sha.org/conferences/>, along with a contact e-mail address for the appropriate symposium organizer. Organizers who wish to hold an open session are encouraged to submit their symposium as early as possible, so that other conference attendees looking to submit a paper to a relevant session can identify appropriate open symposia.

Forums/Panel Discussions

These are less-structured gatherings, typically between one-and-a-half and three hours in length, organized around a discussion topic to be addressed by an invited panel and seeking to engage the audience. Forum proposals must identify the moderator and all panelists, the number of whom should be appropriate to the time allotted (typically up to 6 participants for a 1.5-hour panel discussion). The moderator must submit an abstract for the discussion topic and identify all panel participants when submitting the abstract. Moderators shall advise each panel/forum participant that they must register for the 2027 conference at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2026. One-day and guest registrations for forum panelists are not permitted.

Three-Minute Forums

These are informal—but still academic—discussion groups consisting of a number of rapid, three-minute presentations followed by discussion. Typically, these sessions last for at least 1 hour and consist of blocks of 4 or 5 presentations that are only 3 minutes in length, followed by 10–15 minutes of question-and-answer discussion on the papers. This format permits rapid presentation and discussion. Three-minute-forum proposals must identify the overall moderator and all forum presenters. Moderators shall notify each panel/forum participant that they must register for the 2027 conference at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2026. One-day and guest registrations for forum panelists are not permitted.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OPTION

SHA will once again offer a virtual presentation option for those individuals who wish to submit a paper or session for the SHA 2027 conference but will not be able to attend the conference in person. Prerecorded papers and sessions will be scheduled for presentation during the conference in a Virtual Session and will be included in the conference program.

All virtual presentation papers and sessions must be prerecorded and sent to SHA Headquarters by 1 December 2026. Guidelines and assistance in preparing prerecorded presentations will be provided to anyone who needs them after abstracts are accepted. Presenters will need access to a computer with an internet connection, camera, and microphone to record their presentations in advance of the conference.

Anyone submitting a prerecorded paper or session for the SHA 2027 conference must register at the full conference rate by 1 November 2026.

Individuals who choose to prerecord their paper/session and submit it for the Virtual Session cannot present the same paper/session in-person in Austin.

For questions on the Virtual Conference option, please contact SHA Headquarters at hq@sha.org.

STUDENT PRESENTERS

Student presenters (either individual presenters or those presenting in an organized symposium) are encouraged to submit their papers for the annual Jamie Chad Brandon Student Paper Prize Competition. Entrants must be student members of SHA prior to submission of their papers for consideration. There can be no more than three authors on the paper; furthermore, all of the authors must be students and members of SHA. Submissions are due Monday, 1 December 2026; there will be no extensions. Please consult the SHA website (<https://sha.org/about-us/awards-and-prizes/>) for submission guidelines.

HOW TO SUBMIT

The regular abstract submission period is from 1 May to 30 June 2026.

If you are unable to use the SHA online abstract submission system (ConfTool) and need to submit a paper or session by mail, please contact SHA Headquarters at hq@sha.org.

DEADLINE

The deadline for online abstract submission is 30 June 2026. Mailed submissions must be postmarked on or before 30 June 2026. No abstracts will be accepted after 30 June 2026.

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT AND INTERNET ACCESS

A digital (LCD) projector for PowerPoint presentations, a microphone, and a lectern will be provided in each meeting room. The session organizer is responsible for coordinating among the presenters in their session to ensure that one laptop computer is available to all presenters during the session. SHA will not provide laptop computers for presenters. If you are chairing a session in which PowerPoint presentations will be used, you must make arrangements for someone in your session to provide the necessary laptop computer. We strongly recommend that session chairs bring a USB flash drive with sufficient memory to store all the PowerPoint presentations for their session.

All PowerPoint presentations should be loaded onto the designated laptop or USB flash drive by the session organizer prior to the beginning of the session for a seamless transition between papers. Presenters are discouraged from using a computer other than the one designated by the

session organizer in order to prevent delays arising from disconnecting/reconnecting the digital projector. Presenters may not use online presentation software, such as Prezi online, as the quality of the Wi-Fi connections cannot be guaranteed. Carousel slide projectors and overhead acetate-sheet projectors will not be provided at the conference venue. Questions regarding audiovisual equipment should be sent to SHA Headquarters at hq@sha.org well in advance of the conference.

Note: Please be aware that SHA does not endorse presenters' participating in the conference via Skype or other electronic means. Under very narrow circumstances, such participation may be permitted by the Program Chairs. However, any presenter participating via Skype or other electronic means will be required to pay any additional costs associated with enabling such participation and must register at the full conference rate by 1 November 2026. Arrangements must be coordinated with the Program Chairs well in advance of the conference.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS AND PRIZES

SHA offers a number of awards to students presenting at the SHA conference. These include the Ed and Judy Jelks Student Travel Awards, the SHA Québec City Award/Bourse de Québec, the Harriet Tubman Student Travel Award, the Robert L. Schuyler Student Travel Awards, and the Jamie Chad Brandon Student Paper Prize. In addition, the ACUA offers the George R. Fischer Student Travel Award and the ACUA & Recon Offshore Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Travel Award.

For information on these awards, application procedures, and deadlines, please visit [https://sha.org/about-us/awards- and-prizes/](https://sha.org/about-us/awards-and-prizes/) and <https://acuaonline.org/acua-awards/>.

ACUA INFORMATION

Underwater Archaeology Proceedings 2027

Individuals presenting underwater archaeology papers are eligible to submit written versions of their papers to be considered for publication in the ACUA *Underwater Archaeology Proceedings 2027*. To be considered for inclusion in the proceedings, presenters must register to submit their intent to publish through the link on the ACUA website (www.acuaonline.org). Submitters are required to carefully follow the formatting and submission guidelines for the proceedings posted on the ACUA website. Watch for the Call for Papers that will be released after the 2027 Conference. For more information, visit the blog *The ACUA Underwater Archaeology Proceedings: Share Your Research* (<https://acuaonline.org/deep-thoughts/the-acua-underwater-archaeology-proceedings-share-your-research/>). If you have questions, contact Series Editors Dave Ball and Allyson Ropp (proceedings@acuaonline.org).

ACUA Archaeological Photo Festival Competition

The ACUA invites all SHA members and conference attendees to participate in the ACUA 2027 Archaeological Photo Festival and People’s Choice Competition. Photos relating to either underwater or terrestrial archaeology may be submitted. The deadline for entry is 1 December 2026. Images will be displayed on the ACUA website and winning entries announced during the SHA conference. Please consult the ACUA website for further information and to download details of entry, digital uploads, and payment (www.acuaonline.org).

ELIGIBILITY

Membership in the Society for Historical Archaeology is not required to give a presentation at the SHA 2027 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology. It is necessary, however, for all presenters to register at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2026 and for their presentations to conform to the ethical standards upheld by the society. Participants submitting abstracts must acknowledge their agreement with the SHA Ethics Principles, provided here.

SHA ETHICS PRINCIPLES

Historical archaeologists study, interpret, and preserve archaeological sites, artifacts and documents from or related to literate societies over the past 600 years for the benefit of present and future peoples. In conducting archaeology, individuals incur certain obligations to the archaeological record, colleagues, employers, and the public. These obligations are integral to professionalism. This document presents ethical principles for the practice of historical archaeology. All members of The Society for Historical Archaeology, and others who actively participate in society-sponsored activities, shall support and follow the ethical principles of the society. All historical archaeologists and those in allied fields are encouraged to adhere to these principles. SHA is a sponsoring organization of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). SHA members are encouraged to join the RPA and SHA will use the RPA grievance process for ethics grievances.

Principle 1—Historical archaeologists have a duty to adhere to professional standards of ethics and practices in their research, teaching, reporting, and interactions with the public.

Principle 2—Historical archaeologists have a duty to encourage and support the long-term preservation and effective management of archaeological sites and collections, from both terrestrial and underwater contexts, for the benefit of humanity.

Principle 3—Historical archaeologists have a duty to disseminate research results to scholars in an accessible, honest and timely manner.

Principle 4—Historical archaeologists have a duty to collect data accurately during investigations so that reliable data sets and site documentation are produced, and to see that these materials are appropriately curated for future generations.

Principle 5—Historical archaeologists have a duty to respect the individual and collective rights of others and to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, place of birth and/or physical disabilities. Structural and institutional racism, male privilege and gender bias, white privilege, and inequitable treatment of others are prevalent and persistent issues in modern culture. Historical archaeologists have an obligation to treat everyone with dignity and respect and to adhere to zero tolerance against all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Principle 6—Historical archaeologists shall not sell, buy, trade, or barter items from archaeological contexts. Historical archaeologists shall avoid assigning commercial value to historic artifacts except in circumstances where valuation is required for the purposes of appraisal and insurance or when valuation is used to discourage site vandalism.

Principle 7—Historical archaeologists have a duty to encourage education about archaeology, strive to engage citizens in the research process and publicly disseminate the major findings of their research, to the extent compatible with resource protection and legal obligations.

ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEONS

If you have a suggestion for a roundtable luncheon topic or wish to lead a luncheon, please contact Roundtable Luncheon Coordinator Jade Luiz at jluiz@msudenver.edu with a short description of your proposed roundtable by 15 August 2026.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops provide more-in-depth, hands-on learning opportunities. If you would like to present a full-day (8-hour) or half-day (4-hour) workshop, please contact Workshop Coordinator Jade Luiz at jluiz@msudenver.edu with a description of your proposed workshop by 30 June 2026.

GETTING TO AND AROUND AUSTIN, TEXAS

Airport

Austin-Bergstrom Airport (AUS)—AUS is located 6.5 miles from the Austin Marriott Downtown and features the Barbara Jordan Terminal and the South Terminal. Austin’s public transportation provider CapMetro bus connects AUS to downtown Austin. Rideshare and taxi services are also readily available. (Details below.)

Ground Transportation (from AUS)

Public Transportation—CapMetro (<https://www.capmetro.org/>) connects downtown Austin and Austin-Bergstrom Airport (AUS). CapMetro runs every 15 minutes from 4:55 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. every day including holidays. The CapMetro bus services the Barbara Jordan Terminal at the Ground Transportation Center. The Route 20 bus will transport from the ABIA Lower Level stop at the Austin-Bergstrom Airport and has stops throughout downtown. Lavaca/4th will be closest to the conference hotel. Tickets are available for \$1.25 at the door.

Rideshare (Uber/Lyft/etc.): Use rideshare service apps to book a ride to and from Austin-Bergstrom Airport. Passengers can only meet their driver within the designated rideshare area that is located under the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, north or behind the Red Garage. You can find a map [here](#).

Taxis and Luxury Sedans: Convenient, on-demand transportation is minutes away with ATX Co-Op Taxi, Central City Taxi, and Z-Trip. Request transportation from the airport to other points in the region day or night. Taxi pick-up is located near the rideshare area, under the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, north or behind the Red Garage.

- ATX Co-Op Taxi: 512.333.5555
- Central City Taxi: 512.400.4044
- Z-Trip: 512.452.9999

Car Rental: Austin-Bergstrom Airport provides access to most major rental car agencies, which offer a wide selection of vehicles. For contact information for each of these companies, please follow this [link](#).

Once you have collected your baggage, cross the street and walk through the parking garage, following signs to Ground Transportation. An electric tram is available if needed on the lower level of the parking garage across from the terminal.

Train

Austin is serviced by an active [Amtrak station](#). The train station is located at 250 N. Lamar Blvd, located 1.2 miles from the conference hotel. The station offers a waiting room for riders, parking, and checked bag service.

The CapMetro Red Line rail offers transport between downtown Austin to north and northeast Austin. A single ride ticket is \$3.50.

Bus

Austin has a variety of bus companies that provide transport between major cities in Texas. These include Greyhound, Vonlane, Red Coach, and FlixBus. Bus stations for these companies include Austin Eastside Bus Plaza and Downtown Austin (9th St).

Ground Transportation (Around the City)

Public Transportation: CapMetro bus service operates a large network of buses and the Red Line rail. Their [website](#) provides schedules, maps, and fare information. The CapMetro app makes real-time planning easier.

Rideshare: Uber and Lyft are operational in Austin.

Taxicabs: Taxicabs are usually plentiful and can be hailed by the hotel staff.

E-bikes and e-scooters: For shorter rides between close destinations, there are many opportunities to hop on an e-bike or an e-scooter that is hosted through third-party apps.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES

The call for papers will be posted at <https://sha.org/conferences/>. This website will provide regularly updated information, including links to hotel reservations, travel tips, travel award applications, volunteer forms, and other pertinent information. The online abstract submission system can be accessed at <https://www.conftool.com/sha2027>.

Be sure to follow the 2027 conference on Facebook and other SHA social media using the hashtag [#SHA2027](#) to find useful apps and links.

Any questions about SHA 2027 Austin can be sent to the Conference Chair, Rachel Feit, at the general program e-mail address: shaAustin2027@gmail.com.

See You in the Live Music Capital of the World!