2025 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology
New Orleans, Louisiana

8–11 January 2025
Call for Papers Opens: 1 May 2024
Final Submission Deadline: 30 June 2024

Landscaes in Transition:
Looking to the Past to Adapt to the Future

The SHA 2025 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology Committee invites you to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the annual historical and underwater archaeology conference. The 2025 SHA conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street, located at the edge of the historic Vieux Carré/French Quarter. The conference hotel’s ideal location at the edge of the city’s crown jewel provides direct access to a world-class gastronomic experience, an eclectic art scene, distinctive architecture, historic and culturally significant neighborhoods, diverse music, and exciting nightlife. Enjoy Frenchman Street in the Faubourg Marigny, where the locals hang out, or stroll through the French Market and enjoy beignets and coffee at Café Du Monde in the Vieux Carré. Arrive before the conference begins to ring in the new year, stay through the conference, and enjoy the first parades of the 2025 Mardi Gras season. Whether this will be your first time visiting or you have walked the city’s storied streets multiple times, all will agree that New Orleans is like no other city!

For thousands of years Native American peoples occupied the crescent-shaped landmass adjacent to the Mississippi River that would become New Orleans. When the French arrived in 1718, they encountered the Choctaw nation, who referred to this location along the river as “Bulbancha,” or the Land of Many Tongues, a direct reference to the multtribal nature of this location where fishing, hunting, and trading took place. The land mass was ideal for these purposes, because it is situated along a natural levee further elevated by the many middens created by discarded oyster shells and sediment deposits from thousands of years of occupation. Easy access to Lake Pontchartrain and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico made Bulbancha an attractive location for the eventual settlement of Europeans. Today, New Orleans maintains its multicultural identity with African American, Cajun, Creole, French, German, Spanish, Irish, Italian, Jewish, and Native American influences, defining it as one of the most historically and culturally important places in the United States.

Today, however, the historical, archaeological, and even cultural milieu of New Orleans is directly threatened by the ongoing global climate crisis with increasing average temperatures, rising sea levels, intensifying storms, extreme rain events, tornadoes, and other phenomena directly linked to anthropogenic influences on our planet’s climate. The SHA 2025 Conference Committee encourages the membership to explore the effects of climate change and the impacts on historic and underwater archaeological sites—a theme extending beyond New Orleans and the U.S. Gulf South. We encourage the membership to be creative and consider integrating climate-related issues and themes in imaginative ways, from how our discipline addresses climate change to how these changes influence our interpretations of archaeological sites, assemblages, and past human behavior. While the aim of the 2025 conference and theme is not to solve the current climate crisis, we feel that this is the right time and appropriate platform to continue to raise awareness. The presentation of research and discus-
sion will further facilitate understanding of climate change and its impacts on historic places and landscapes, which may aid in enhancing the future resiliency of places like New Orleans for later generations to learn from and enjoy.

THE VENUE: THE NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT

All conference sessions will be held at the New Orleans Marriott at 555 Canal Street. The 41-story conference hotel offers rooms with spectacular Mississippi River and city views. Located in the French Quarter, the hotel is steps away from many iconic dining and entertainment options and features two on-site restaurants: 5Fifty5 and 55 Fahrenheit. SHA has reserved a limited number of rooms for the conference at a rate of US$179.00 per night (plus tax) for single or double occupancy. Subject to the availability of rooms in the SHA block, this rate will be available from 2 January to 14 January 2025, and will expire if not booked before 16 December 2024. Please note that any changes in departure date made after check-in may result in an early departure fee.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Co-Chairs: Christopher Horrell (Submerged Archaeological Conservancy International) and Melanie Damour (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Program Co-Chairs: Dave Ball (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) and Jeneva Wright (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Underwater Co-Chairs: Della Scott Ireton (Florida Public Archaeology Network) and Doug Jones (Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement)
Terrestrial Co-Chairs: Rachel Watson (Louisiana Division of Archaeology) and Brad Jones (Texas Historical Commission)
Popular Program Directors: Abigail Bleichner (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) and Maegan Smith (Louisiana Division of Archaeology)
Local Arrangements Chair/Tour and Events Director: Barry Bleichner (Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement)
Volunteer Directors: Sadie Schoeffer Whitehurst (Louisiana Division of Archaeology) and Sarah Linden (Texas Historical Commission)
Fundraising/Partnership Liaison: Abigail Bleichner (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency)
Workshops Director: Jade Luiz (Metropolitan State University of 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/sha2025. Each individual submitting an abstract 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 2025 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 submission. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please check the title and abstract for your submission carefully. The Program Committee is not responsible for correcting mispellings and grammatical errors.

The SHA 2025 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.*
Each session organizer and individual presenter at the SHA 2025 conference must submit their abstract(s) by the 30 June deadline and pay a nonrefundable US$25 per abstract fee. In addition, all presenters, organizers, panelists, and discussants must register for the 2025 conference by 1 November 2024 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 2024. For papers or posters with multiple authors, only one of the paper’s/poster’s authors must register for the conference by 1 November 2024 for the paper/poster to remain on the program.

NOTE IMPORTANT POLICY: All presenters and session organizers at the SHA 2025 conference will be required to register for the conference at the full conference rate by 1 November 2024 to remain on the conference program. Those who fail to register by 1 November 2024 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 2024 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$85, 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 Co-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; electronic equipment may be available at an additional charge to the presenter. Authors are expected to set up their own displays and be present at their displays during their designated poster sessions. 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 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 submission 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 2024—and are aware of the 1 November 2024 deadline for presenters to register for the 2025 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 Co-Chairs at SHANOLA2025@gmail.com.

**Note:** Once the overall symposium abstract is approved by the Program Co-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 2024 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 2025 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 email 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 2025 conference at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2024. 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 2025 conference at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2024. One-day and guest registrations for forum panelists are not permitted.

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OPTION**

SHA will once again offer a Virtual Conference platform for those presenters who wish to submit a paper or session for the SHA 2025 conference, but will not be able to attend the conference in person. All papers and sessions must be prerecorded and uploaded to the Virtual Conference platform by 1 December 2024. Guidelines and assistance in preparing prerecorded presentations, with instructions for uploading them to the platform, will be provided 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.

The Virtual Conference platform will be available to conference registrants only to view the prerecorded presentations. Anyone submitting a prerecorded paper or session for the SHA 2025 conference must register at the full conference rate by 1 November 2024.

Individuals who choose to prerecord their paper/session and submit it to the Virtual Conference platform will not be scheduled to present the same paper/session in-person in New Orleans.

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 Friday, 1 December 2024; there will be no extensions. Please consult the SHA website (https://sha.org/about-us/awards-and-prizes/) for submission guidelines.

ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEONS

If you have a suggestion for a roundtable luncheon topic or wish to lead a luncheon, please contact the Roundtable Luncheon Coordinators at SHANOLA2025@gmail.com with a short description of your proposed roundtable by 15 August 2024.

HOW TO SUBMIT

The regular abstract submission period is from 1 May to 30 June 2024.

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 2024. Mailed submissions must be postmarked on or before 30 June 2024. No abstracts will be accepted after 30 June 2024.

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 Co-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 2024. Arrangements must be coordinated with the Program Co-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 Awards, and the Jamie Chad Brandon Student Paper Prize. In addition, the ACUA offers the George R. Fischer Student Travel Award and the ACUA and 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/ and https://acuaonline.org/acua-awards/.
ACUA INFORMATION

Underwater Archaeology Proceedings 2025

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 2025. To be considered for inclusion in the Proceedings, presenters must register to submit through the link on the ACUA website (www.acuaonline.org) by 10 February 2025. Author manuscript deadline is 1 March 2025 and author final edits deadline is 15 April 2025. Submitters are required to carefully follow the formatting and submission guidelines for the Proceedings posted on the ACUA website. Contact Underwater Program Co-Chairs Della Scott-Ireton and Doug Jones with questions.

ACUA Archaeological Photo Festival Competition

The ACUA invites all SHA members and conference attendees to participate in the ACUA 2025 Archaeological Photo Festival and People’s Choice Competition. Photos relating to either underwater or terrestrial archaeology may be submitted. Deadline for entry is 1 December 2024. 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 2025 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology. It is necessary, however, for all presenters to register at the full conference registration rate by 1 November 2024 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.

GETTING TO AND AROUND NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Airport
Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)—MSY is located 16 miles west of the New Orleans Marriott.

Train
New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal (NOL)—New Orleans is serviced by Amtrak. The train station is located downtown, one mile from the conference hotel.

Ground Transportation (from MSY)
Airport Shuttle New Orleans—Shuttle service is available to and from MSY and the New Orleans Marriott. Currently, fares are US$24 one-way and US$44 roundtrip.

Taxicabs—Taxicabs are available at the lower level curbside, outside of baggage claim belts 1 and 14. Currently, fare to the French Quarter starts at US$36 (flat rate) and for three or more passengers fare is US$14 per passenger. There is an additional US$1 per bag fee.

Car Rental—Most major car rental companies operate out of MSY and are located at the consolidated rental car facility.

Public Transportation—Most of the metropolitan area is serviced by two transit systems: New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the Jefferson Transit (JeT) (for Jefferson Parish where the airport is located). For options involving public transit from the airport to the French Quarter, there are two possibilities: RTA’s 202-Airport Express or JeT’s E2-Airport Route in combination with other RTA routes.

Rideshare—Approved rideshare services (or ride-hailing or ride-booking service companies such as Lyft and Uber) meet customers in the Ground Transportation Center located on the first floor of the Short-Term Parking Garage.

Ground Transportation (around the city)
Public Transportation—New Orleans RTA, the city’s public transportation system, offers bus, streetcar, and ferry service throughout the city. The Canal Streetcar line passes right in front of the conference hotel and the famous St. Charles Streetcar line—a National Historic Landmark—is only a few blocks away. Fare for most services currently is US$1.25 (less for those over 65) per ride and requires correct change if paying with cash. Download the “Le Pass” app, the official app of the New Orleans RTA, to see routes, purchase passes, and get more information about accessibility. In addition, for those who plan to ride the streetcar multiple times, “Jazzy Passes” can be purchased for US$3, US$9, and US$55 for 1-, 3-, and 31-day unlimited rides, respectively. See https://www.neworleans.com/plan/transporation/streetcars/ for more information.

Rideshare—Uber and Lyft are operational in New Orleans.

Taxicabs—Taxicabs are usually plentiful and can be hailed by the hotel staff. The largest cab company is United Cab, which has their own booking app. Visit the United Cab website at www.unitedcabs.com for more information.

Ferry—Across the Mississippi River from the French Quarter is Algiers. The Algiers ferry is an extraordinary (and economical) way to experience the mighty Mississippi and view the city from the other side of the river. A ferry ride is only US$2 each way. Download the “Le Pass” app, the official app of the New Orleans RTA, to pay the fare using your phone.

Other—Pedicabs are popular ways to travel short distances in and around the French Quarter. Usually, you can hail a pedicab on the street. Rates for each ride are currently US$5 for the first 6 blocks and US$1 per block per person after that.

For more information on getting around the city related to cabs, public transportation, tours, bikes, and other services, visit https://www.neworleans.com/plan/transportation/.
EXCURSIONS AND EVENTS

The SHA 2025 Conference Committee is working hard to bring you exciting excursions and special events; however, there are many other activities to experience throughout the New Orleans and southeast Louisiana.

Although still in the planning stages, we are organizing tours of various New Orleans neighborhoods, the nearby Mississippi River plantations, and Chalmette Battlefield, where the Battle of New Orleans took place in 1815.

There are many free and inexpensive things to do around New Orleans:
- Take a walking tour of the French Quarter
- Explore the centuries-old French Market
- Watch the Phunny Phorty Phellows and Joan of Arc parades
- Ride the streetcar to explore neighborhoods and destinations near the French Quarter such as the Garden District and City Park
- Wander among the tombs in one of the many aboveground cemeteries
- Enjoy three miles of shopping along Magazine Street
- Listen to live music in one of the many clubs or even on the street
- Peruse historical objects and materials at an art or history museum

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/sha2025.

Be sure to follow the 2025 conference on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #SHA2025 to find useful apps and links.

Any questions about SHA 2025 New Orleans can be sent to the Conference Co-Chairs, Chris Horrell or Melanie Damour, at the general program email address: SHANOLA2025@gmail.com.

See you in The Big Easy!

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Photograph courtesy of Patricia Samford.