Reservation Form

The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture and Reception will take place at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in the historic Carnegie Library.

Friday and Saturday sessions will take place at the Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives.

Advance Registration by Friday, October 30:
$10; students and seniors, $5.

Registration at the Door: $15; students and seniors, $10.

Space is limited.

To Register in Advance:
FAX this form to: 202-442-6050
OR MAIL this form to:
Friends of Washingtoniana
Washingtoniana Division
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: _____________________________
State: __________ Zip: ___________
Phone: __________________________
Email: __________________________

Questions? Interested in volunteering?
Please call 202-730-0477 or go to washingtonhistory.wetpaint.com.

36th Annual Conference on Washington, DC Historical Studies
Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives
1201 17th Street, NW
The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
801 K Street, NW

Thursday, November 12

6 PM RECEPTION
Great Hall, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 801 K Street, NW

7:30 PM LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE
Theater, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 801 K Street, NW

“Whose Story Is It? Crossing the Lines to Understand DC History”
Kathryn S. Smith

Kathy Smith reflects on three-plus decades as a community-based public historian in Washington. Smith studied with Letitia Woods Brown, modernized the Historical Society and created Washington History magazine, founded Cultural Tourism DC, and edited two editions of the now-classic Washington at Home (second edition set for 2010). Join Smith to discuss her experiences helping scholars, lay historians, community organizers, teachers, artists, officials, and marketers integrate history into Washington’s civic life.

Friday, November 13

Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives
1201 17th Street, NW

8:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

9 AM WELCOME

9:30-11:15 AM PLENARY SESSION

1 Ford’s Theatre: A Living Memorial
Moderator: Frank Milligan, President Lincoln’s Cottage at the Soldiers’ Home in Washington, D.C.

Panellists: Mark Ramont, Director of Theatre Programming, Michelle Keegan, Director of Development, Nicole Murray, Education Programs Manager, Ford’s Theatre Society, Richard Morton Smith, Split Rock Studios

In the wake of the acclaimed modernization and re-interpretation of historic Ford’s Theatre, panelists will discuss the intellectual, financial, creative, and marketing decisions that brought about Ford’s new look. (See Session 14, Saturday, for complementary tour.)

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM HISTORY NETWORK/LUNCH BREAK
Explore the festival-style display of local history resources and sites. Lunch is on your own in the neighborhood.

1 PM BROWN BAG SESSION

2 Using GIS to Illustrate Neighborhood Growth
Brian Kraft, Independent Historian

Learn how the newest Geographic Information System mapping technology helps us understand how Washington has grown and changed over the decades. Using animated maps and other engaging visuals, Kraft demonstrates how this technology offers a new way to understand census data, building permits, and topography.

Sponsors
Association of Oldest Inhabitants
Charles Sumner School & Museum
Cultural Tourism DC
Friends of Washingtoniana Division
The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
Rainbow History Project
Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library

Special Thanks for the Generous Contribution of Karol A. Keane Design & Communications
11:15 AM - 12:45 PM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1  Panel Discussion: Sources on the History of Education in Washington
   Moderator: Kimberly Springle, Sumner School Museums & Archives
   Participants: Josephine Baker, DC Public Charter School Board; Robin Y. Jenkins, Education Licensure Commission; Hayden Wettzel, Sumner School Museums & Archives
   Administrators and archivists describe their repositories as well as sources in the Archives of Washington where DC’s private and public education below the college level is documented. Records reveal students and staff, administration and facilities, ephemera and artifacts as well as related activities such as the Safety Patrol and Cadets/JROTC.

2  Making the Modern City
   Moderator: Brett Abrams, Independent Scholar, NARA Archivist
   “Capital Formation: The Distribution of Property Ownership in Washington, DC, 1790-1840,” Dana Stefaneli, University of Virginia
   “Kennedy Brothers Construction in Princeton Heights,” Kent Boese, Independent Historian
   Stefaneli looks at the enduring real estate market that emerged despite the failure of the founding fathers’ development scheme. Boese shows how the Kennedy Brothers’ Park View housing offered the most modern and innovative product. Rotenstein discusses the thoroughly modern marketing schemes designed to lure buyers to a 1930s subdivision in Montgomery County, Maryland.

1 - 2:30 PM  SPECIAL TOURS

1  On-Site Tour: Sumner School Museum & Archives
   Join Archivist Hayden Wettzel for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Sumner School collections, and glimpse the life of DC schools over the last century and a half.

2  Off-Site Tour: Ford’s Theatre, 511 Tenth Street, NW
   On the first of the one hundred to claim your free, timed ticket to the “re-imagined” Ford’s Theatre (subject of Friday morning's plenary session), where 19th-century artifacts present Lincoln’s presidency and life in Washington via 21st-century technology. Tickets are available at the Conference Registration Desk beginning Friday Nov. 13, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sightseeing around 1900.
Washington's Children, DC Public Library

5 Race Matters
   Moderator: Brett Abrams, Independent Historian and NARA Archivist
   “A Murder in a Lonely Spot,” Mark Herlong, Independent Researcher
   Herlong presents the 1880 murder of a popular white Sunday-school teacher, the quick arrest and prosecution of three young black men, and resulting racial tension. Thompson considers how Chinese immigrant men developed communities in Washington, including relationships with African Americans.

3:30-5 PM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

6 The R-Evolution of Photography
   On the Nation’s Capital
   Moderator: William F. Stapp, Founding Curator of Photographs, National Portrait Gallery
   “Photographers of Washington, DC: 1870-1885,” Laurie A. Bary, National Law Enforcement Museum
   “Washington, DC though the Lens of African American Photographers,” Donna M. Wells, Independent Historian
   To mark the 170th anniversary of photography’s invention, panelists discuss DC’s early photographic history and most notable local practitioners of the 19th and 20th centuries.

7 The Nine Lives of Marion Barry
   Film and Discussion
   Join producers Dana Flor and Toby Oppenheimer for a screening of their HBO documentary, followed by a discussion of the creative insights into Washington’s Reconstruction and its aftermath.

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Brett Abrams, Karen Blackman-Mills, Jeff Donahoe, Mark Gerek, Derek Gray, Jane Freundel Levey, Colleen McKnight, Gary Scott, Kimberly Springle, Donna Wells

9 AM  REGISTRATION OPEN
9:30-11 AM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8 Panel Discussion: Dead End with a Million-Dollar View:
   The History of Elvans Road in Barry Farm
   Moderator: Thomas Cantwell, author, “Anacostia: Strength in Adversity”
   Participants: Trish Savage, student, University of the District of Columbia; Habebah Muhammad, Anacostia Community Museum and lifelong resident of Elvans Road; Reni Emil Fractious, descendant of original Elvans Road lot owner; Michelle Powell, former Elvans Road resident; Peter S. Banks, co-author, The Unintended Consequences of the Relocation Program. Today’s Elvans Road testifies to the strong community that developed in Southeast at Barry Farm (now Hillsdale), where the Freedmen’s Bureau sold building lots to formerly enslaved men and women after the Civil War. Panelists trace Elvans Road residents since Reconstruction, looking at how the city’s reasoning, housing policies, and neglect of maintenance almost destroyed this neighborhood.

9 Panel Discussion: How Soon We Forget: The Walter Pierce
   Park Archaeological Project and Reviving a Lost Memory of
   Post-Civil War Washington
   Moderator: C. R. Gibbs, Historian
   Participants: Mark Mack, Howard University; Mary Belcher, Community Historian; Eddie Becker, Community Historian and Filmmaker
   Hear the results of the three-year archaeological survey and documentation of Adams Morgan’s Walter C. Pierce Community Park, where 7,500 people were buried in two cemeteries, one for African Americans and one for Quakers. Anthropology Professor Mack’s team used ground-penetrating radar to locate remains. They also created a biographical database on those interred, offering new insights into Washington’s Reconstruction and its aftermath.

10 The Civil War Capital
   Moderator: Gary Scott, Regional Historian, National Park Service
   “Waiting for Lincoln: Friendship, Politics and Washington Society during Secession Winter, 1860-1861,” Rachel Shapiro, University of Virginia
   “How the Capital (Capital Almost Got Away),” John B. Richardson, Independent Historian
   Shapiro discusses how social activities helped build political support for the Union between Lincoln’s first election and the beginning of the Civil War. Richardson discusses the war’s physical impact on the city, the post-war attempt to relocate the national capital to the country’s geographic center, and Alexander B. Shepherd’s success in quashing the relocation threat.