



# Social History Curators Group

## Transforming social history in museums

### Regenerating Communities through Social History

We are intending to hold SHCG conference 2022 in the Leeds area but with the ability for online or pre-recorded contributions/papers.

**Dates TBC – late June/early July 2022**

### Call for contributions

SHCG would like to receive proposals of presentations, case studies, round table discussions, activities and workshops on the theme of how museums and other cultural and heritage-based venues are using social history in innovative ways to help engage with and regenerate their local areas and communities.

### Guidance on Topics for Discussion

The past two years have been challenging ones for everyone, including museums. However, among these challenges cultural and heritage organisations continue to make a positive impact on their local communities and are often central to regeneration projects. Places in need of regeneration are often those that have suffered following the decline of an industry that was central to the area e.g. fishing, milling, mining, textile production; industries that are now central to many social history museums and their collections.

SHCG Conference 2022 would like to hear from organisations who are or have recently been involved in regeneration projects that include heritage and social history in some way. We invite you to discuss and share examples of how social history can be at the heart of community regeneration.

### Questions for Consideration:

- What is the current role of heritage and social history in regeneration projects, and how might/should this change in the future?
- How can heritage organisations be integrated into regeneration projects?
- How important is partnership working in regeneration projects?

- How does the type of museum (e.g. local authority, independent charitable trust, national museum) affect the ability to engage effectively with the local community and impact regeneration in the area?
- How can we involve communities in the regeneration of their local areas?
- How can we help embed a sense of agency, ownership and place in communities to enable people to use heritage spaces for their needs?

We are keen to hear from a wide range of organisations as well as museums. We welcome contributions from cultural or heritage-based venues, cultural consortiums, local authorities and others who are working with their communities in innovative and inclusive ways to help revitalise that community or area.

This could include:

- Capital redevelopments
- Community engagement projects
- Community panels
- Kickstart or other employment schemes
- Partnerships with local businesses
- Re-integration or change of space relating to the Covid-19 pandemic

## **Guidance on Session Formats**

This year, SHCG is looking for presentations or interactive workshops that relate to the topics outlined above. The more thought provoking, unusual, practical and insightful, the better.

Insights into how others are working, their successes, their challenges and best practice are of benefit to many within the wider museum, heritage and cultural sector. We welcome contributions which pose difficult questions and are keen to hear from projects which might not have gone as planned or were considered unsuccessful in their outcomes – SHCG aims to create a space for honest dialogue and problem solving.

## **Curatorial Conundrum**

We would also like to invite up to 6 delegates to participate in our Curatorial Conundrum session.

The Curatorial Conundrum we are proposing is: *How can our collections and sites help inspire regeneration?*

We invite up to 6 delegates to apply to share their thoughts, experiences and case studies on the topic *How can our collections and sites inspire regeneration?*

Delegates should produce a short 3-minute summary of their thoughts, ideas, case studies on this subject which will be followed by an open-floor discussion with all conference attendees facilitated by the SHCG Trustees.

In order to encourage honest dialogue this summary can be anonymous; SHCG committee can provide a person to read a statement on behalf of a delegate. This session is aimed at giving conference attendees the chance to discuss and share ideas with their peers on a wider subject linked to the theme of regeneration.

## How to Apply

SHCG is keen to hear from **anyone** working within social history in museums and heritage sites, **not only those in curatorial positions**. If you have an idea that you think might be appropriate for this conference but are unsure, please submit it as we will read and review every application. If you would like to discuss a potential submission please contact [conferenceshcg@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceshcg@gmail.com).

Contributors are invited to offer perspectives from a local, national or international context. SHCG is keen to accept more contributions that stem from thinking 'outside the box' and which will allow delegates to reflect on and think about the role of Social History and its future.

Please submit your ideas, which must relate to the theme of regeneration and/or community engagement, using the application form at the end of this document and indicate which session format you would be interested in presenting in.

## Dates for your diary

- Please complete the submission form below and return it to Emma Harper and Victoria Millar ([conferenceshcg@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceshcg@gmail.com)) by **18<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.
- All applicants will be notified of the Conference Organisers' decision by **14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.
- We are intending for the conference to be held at the end of June/early July 2022 and will keep applicants updated as to exact dates once they are known.

## Terms and conditions

The decision of the conference panel is final.

- Only one person from each submission will be given a free day delegate place for the day that they are speaking.
- Speakers for the Curatorial Conundrum session do not qualify for a free place on the day they are speaking.
- Speakers will be offered a small fee for speaking plus travel costs will be reimbursed at standard fare-rate booked by a deadline specified by the SHCG Trustees, to a maximum of £100. This does not include Curatorial Conundrum speakers. We require any speakers eligible to receive reimbursement to make arrangements which are as cost-effective as possible, for example, taking advantage of early booking offers and using railcards.
- Speakers will have the option to present remotely if they wish.
- Please note that SHCG is unable to provide subsistence costs or accommodation for speakers.

The Social History Curators Group is a membership organisation dedicated to improving the status and provision of social history in museums and the standards of collections, research, display and interpretation. It is not solely for curators, but for anyone working with or interested in social history in arts, museums and heritage.

Our annual conference is open to all and aims to facilitate the sharing of skills and experiences, and to provoke debate around a current theme affecting our members and colleagues through presentations, interactive workshops and tours.

For more information, please visit [www.shcg.org.uk](http://www.shcg.org.uk)

<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	
<i>Please indicate how you would like to participate:</i>	
Curatorial Conundrum (3 mins) plus group discussion. If you wish to submit anonymously, please indicate this	
Case study presentation (20 mins)	
Interactive workshop (45 mins)	
Other format idea: please specify	
Please tell us why you believe your paper should be included in the SHCG Conference 2022 (100 words max)	

Please provide an abstract, clearly indicating which theme or themes your paper will explore, and how it will explore it/them. What do you expect delegates to learn from your session? (300 words max)

Short biography of proposed speaker/s (100 words max)

Return to Emma Harper and Victoria Millar at [conferenceshcg@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceshcg@gmail.com) by **18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**. If you have a proposal which you'd like to talk through with us before the submission deadline, do contact either of us individually.

Emma

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