

2026 ARIZONA HISTORY MINI-CONVENTION PROGRAM



“Arizona 1776 and Beyond”

September 25-26, 2026

All events will take place in the auditorium and lobby of the

Arizona History Museum

949 E. 2nd Street

Tucson, AZ 85719

Parking is available at the Arizona Historical Society's section of the Main Gate Garage, Euclid Ave. and 2nd St., near the Marriott Hotel. Please enter the garage from 2nd St and head north to the section labeled "Arizona Historical Society," and bring your ticket to the museum for validation.

Friday, September 25

4:30 to 5:30 pm **The Welcome Reception** (light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages) is open to all registered conference attendees and one non-registered guest. Please RSVP when registering to attend Friday's events so we have an accurate head count.

5:30-5:40 **Welcome Address:** David Turpie, Erik Berg, and Heidi Osselaer

5:40-6:30 **Keynote Speaker:** Mark Santiago, “1776: Revolutions in the East and West,” hosted by the Arizona Historical Society and the Arizona History Convention.

On July 4, 1776, as the birth of a new nation took place, in Arizona and surrounding regions, the final expansion of the oldest colonial power in America was unfolding. Mark Santiago's presentation will examine the course of this “revolution in the west,” juxtaposed with the American Revolution in the east.

Mark Santiago, retired as executive director of the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum and the New Mexico Museum of Space History,

graduated with his BA and MA from the University of Arizona and lives in Bisbee. He has authored five books related to the Southwest under Spain.

Saturday, September 26

- 8:00-8:30** Vendor set up in auditorium; poster set up in lobby.
- 8:30-9:00** Check-in for all registered guests. Opening remarks: Erik Berg and Heidi Osselaer
- 9:00-10:30** **Session 1: Before 1776: Indigenous Arizona**
- Moderator: Norma Jean Coulter (Arizona History Convention board member)
- Ciaran Doherty (independent historian), "Snow-Belt Cities: A History of the Nuvakwewtaqa Pueblos"
- David Martinez (Arizona State University), "The Maze of History: Komal Hok, O'odham Teachings, and an Earth-Based Sense of Time"
- John Mack (Georgia State University-Perimeter College), "Dził Nchaa Si'an / Mount Graham: Sacred Geography, Scientific Ambition, and the Making of Place in Arizona"
- 10:30-11:00** **Break:** Please visit the poster exhibits in the lobby and vote for your favorite by 3:30pm.
- 11:00-12:30** **Session 2: Southern Arizona, 1740s-1870s**
- Moderator: Katherine Morrissey, (University of Arizona, Arizona History Convention board member)
- Homer Thiel (Desert Archaeology, Inc.), "Qué Hay Para Cenar? Diet at the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson, 1776-1856"
- Stephanie Stiscia (Westland Engineering and Environmental Resources), "Mining History and Archaeology in the Santa Rita Mountains"
- Jennifer Levstik (Trinity Consultants/Westland Resources), "Black Pioneers in Tucson: The Effects of Post Reconstruction and 'Southernization' of Arizona"
- 12:30-1:30** **Break:** Lunch on your own. Please continue to view the poster exhibits.

1:30-3:00

Session 3: Territorial Law and Disorder

Moderator: David Martinez (Arizona State University)

David Grassé (independent scholar), “‘The Unfortunate Girl’: The Brief Life and Tragic Death of Miss Annie Kane”

Eduardo Obregón Pagán (Arizona State University West), "Georgie Clifford's Arizona: Morphine, Survival, and the Territorial Underworld"

Ronald Benson (independent historian), “Arizona’s First Sheriff: Berry Hill De Armitt”

3:00-3:30

Break: Vote for the Best Poster of 2026 by the end of this break.

3:30-5:00

Session 4: Blazing Trails in Twentieth-Century Arizona

Moderator: Eduardo Obregón Pagán (Arizona State University West)

Patricia Bonn (independent historian), “All Aboard! The 1925 Journey on the Roadways that Would Become Route 66”

David Bernheim (independent historian), “Why Flagstaff Remains a Timeless Destination Along Route 66”

Mary Reynolds (independent historian), “The Women Who Made the Arizona Trail”

5:00

Announcement of the winner of the 2026 poster prize.

We announce poster presenters on Facebook and our website as they are accepted. There is still time to submit a poster proposal at: <https://arizonahistory.org/2026-call-for-posters>

Mission Statement

Since 1960, the Arizona History Convention has provided a forum for the dissemination of original research and the discussion of topics in Arizona history. Held annually at rotating sites throughout the state, anyone interested in the history of Arizona, the Southwest, or the borderlands region is encouraged to attend. The Convention offers an excellent space for professional historians, graduate students, avocational historians, and anyone interested in history to meet, present their research, and discuss the important topics of Arizona’s past.

The Arizona History Convention, Inc., 501(c)(3), is funded solely by donations, grants, and registration fees.

Many thanks to our sponsor, the Arizona Historical Society



<https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/ahs-membership/>