

## The Amplified Initiative and Why We Hope You'll Join It

The Annual Meeting of the OAH brings together more historians of the United States than any other event, ranging from scholars of early America to students of contemporary America, from academic scholarship to public history, from emerging historians to senior scholars. The meeting in Sacramento in April 2018 boasts an especially diverse program.

But not everyone who would benefit from those conversations can come to the OAH meeting. Colleagues with limited travel resources, family commitments, or unyielding schedules are unable to join us. Teachers in high school and interpreters at museums miss conversations from which they would benefit.

The OAH is launching an experiment, called the Amplified Initiative, to help overcome these lost opportunities. With the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we will make audio recordings of all sessions and then share those recordings in different forms for different uses.

Most obviously, OAH members unable to join us in Sacramento will be able to listen to what they have missed. In fact, even those who do attend will be able to listen to sessions or papers they could not attend. The sessions will be tagged, moreover, so that historians can trace paths of interest across sessions that may not be solely devoted to a particular topic or perspective.

In a more innovative use of the recordings, partners in public history and history teaching will select, combine, contextualize, and distribute selections from talks suited to the purposes of their members. The OAH will establish a mobile video studio at the meeting where we will interview a broad range of historians, publishers, and partners for specific uses in classrooms, museums, and public history.

The Amplified Initiative is a pilot project that we hope will grow into standard practice not only for the OAH but for other academic conferences. For it to succeed, we need those who present at the Annual Meeting to give us permission to share their talks.

**Here are the important details:** No one will profit economically from your work and only the OAH and its partners (listed below) will have the capacity to access, edit, and distribute the recordings. You will give up no intellectual property if you agree to participate. Instead, you will find the reach of your contribution extended—amplified—to audiences who will appreciate and benefit from your work. We hope you will sign the permission form so that we can make the most of the Annual Meeting, of the OAH, and of your own insights.

Moreover, as you think about your presentation, consider ways that it may speak to wider audiences and purposes.

We look forward to seeing you in Sacramento.



Edward L. Ayers  
OAH President

---

### Partners with the OAH for the Amplified Initiative:

American Association of State and Local History  
Big Ten Academic Alliance  
College Board  
H-Net  
National Council for History Education  
National Council for Public History  
National Humanities Center  
National Park Service