Costume Society of America’s
2024 Call for Submissions

The Costume Society of America and the Mid-Atlantic region are pleased to announce a call for submissions for the 50th Annual Meeting and Symposium to be held in the history-rich heart of Washington, DC. As the Society’s 50th anniversary year ends, this symposium will provide members with the opportunity to look forward to the future of fashion and reflect back on the history of dress. The intent of the symposium is to provide a platform to discuss theoretical and practical research, designs, and innovations to foster understanding and stimulate scholarship in the widely varied topic of dress. While reflections on the scholarship of dress history since the founding of the Society in 1973, as well as predictions for the future of fashion, are welcome, all topics related to dress and adornment will be considered. Collaborative and interdisciplinary scholarship are encouraged as are topics which demonstrate diversity in subject matter and research.

Details for submission, including rubrics and instructions for each type of submission, can be found below. While individuals are encouraged to send multiple submissions in any or all categories, each first author may present two (2) accepted submissions to permit the greatest number of participants. If you are an award presenter or winner, this does not count toward your two-presentation limit. If you are listed as a secondary author on other accepted works, but not the first author, it will not count towards your two-presentation limit. The presentations will take place in person in Washington, DC, from May 21 through 25, 2024.
Possible areas of investigation include, but are not limited to:

- New perspectives on work of earlier researchers in the field
- Looking at the past to inspire collaboration in the future
- Review of significant fashion events
- The significance of dress in a specific social or cultural movement
- The future of sustainable clothing
- Research and apparel for cosplay
- Research and apparel for reenactment
- Theatrical costume research, collaborations, and design
- New exhibition practices
- Digitizing collections
- Innovations for accessing and utilizing historical records
- Conservation collaborations with small collections
- Creative teaching practices in dress and culture
- New research on the dress and adornment of underrepresented groups
- Creating collaborative relationships of dress/design concepts between cultures

The call is international and is open to students, early and seasoned career professionals. Scholars, educators, museum specialists, makers and marketers of dress, adornment, and/or wearable art, re-enactors, and other clothing enthusiasts are encouraged to submit proposals. Additionally, we invite scholars from alternative areas of research that may have a study pertaining to dress or adornment. Broad submissions of work are welcome from all areas of the field.

**QUESTIONS?**
Abstracts administrators – Theresa Alexander and Karin Bohleke (Research Presentations, In-process Research Presentations, and Panel/Discussion Sessions), Jean Parsons (Creative Works Exhibition), and Brian Centrone and Angel Dubose (Professional Development workshops): abstractscommittee@costumesocietyamerica.com. Reach out to symposium@costumesocietyamerica.com for general questions.

**TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS**
1. Research Presentations
2. In-Process Research Presentations
3. Panel or Discussion Sessions
4. Creative Works Exhibition
5. Professional Development Workshops
1. **Research Presentations**: This is a traditional podium-presentation style for research. Choose the sub-category that your research best fits. *All chosen research presentation abstracts submitted by members of CSA will be considered for the Betty Kirke Excellence in Research Award.*

   **Standard Research Presentation sub-category**
   - **Description**: Includes qualitative and quantitative methods including historical research.

   **Design-Based Research Presentation sub-category**
   - **Description**: Includes the work of designers and researchers who are considered to be moving their practice forward by presenting on a topic that other designers will learn from, such as presenting how to solve a problem based on one's approach to the problem, and the successful or unsuccessful outcome.

   **Project-Based Research Presentation sub-category** (previously called “Armchair Tour”)
   - **Description**: Must be presented by creator(s) of the exhibition, project, or production. The idea behind these presentations is to give attendees a chance to virtually attend an exhibition, project, or production that has already taken place. Presenters at all levels of expertise are welcome to submit. Desired content includes museum exhibitions, digital projects, film and stage productions, collections, archive, and library management projects, re-enactor projects, and designed fashion collections.

2. **In-Process Research Presentations**: This is an opportunity to share works-in-process. We seek submissions from emerging scholars as well as scholars with new ideas. Choose the sub-category that your presentation style best fits. Thesis and dissertation topics are also encouraged.

   **Short Slide presentation sub-category**
   - **Description**: Offers scholars an opportunity to share works-in-process through a short verbal and visual presentation style.
   - **Format at the Symposium**: Presentations will be no more than ten minutes long.
**Poster presentation sub-category**

- **Description**: Offers scholars an opportunity to share work-in-process in poster format and talk one-on-one with symposium attendees about their research during a scheduled session.

- **Format at the Symposium**: One poster, three feet tall by four feet wide. This is a static exhibit that will be on display at the symposium site, with scholars presenting their poster during the symposium during a designated time.

- **Submission for In-Process Research Presentations**: Abstracts should discuss contributions to the field, thesis/argument, methodology, and current process. Subject matter will be graded on originality and relevancy; strength of research, objective, or argument; clarity, quality of writing, and organization; diversity/equity/inclusion/belonging; and quality of potential presentation. [The rubric for in-process research presentations can be found here.](#)

- **Word and Image Counts for In-Process Research Presentations Submissions**: 300 words (excluding references) and up to 4 images.

3. **Panel or Discussion Sessions**

- **Description**: A panel or discussion session is a presentation centered on a common theme or project, proposed by a member of the panel.

- **Format at the Symposium**: Strictly limited to a 90-minute session, including question time. It will consist of one moderator and no more than four presenters (which can include the moderator). Abstracts submitted as part of a panel presentation may not be submitted in any other category.

- **Submission for Panel or Discussion Sessions**: Abstracts should discuss contributions to the field, thesis/argument, methodology, and conclusions. Originality and relevancy; strength of research, objective, or argument; clarity, quality of writing, and organization; diversity/equity/inclusion/belonging; and quality of potential presentation. The complete panel application should be submitted by the moderator. [The rubric for panel or discussion sessions can be found here.](#)

- **Word and Image Counts for Panel or Discussion Session Submissions**: abstract of 300 words, excluding references, for the entire panel, as well as 300-word (excluding references) abstracts for each paper (along with the papers’ titles, and the name and affiliation of each paper’s presenter), and up to 4 images total for the entire panel (optional).

4. **Creative Works Exhibition**

- **Description**: Submissions of creative work related to dress and fashion are welcomed from a full spectrum of the field, such as: costuming, cosplay, costume, or fashion based on historical research, reproductions, reenactment garments, fashion design, fiber art and weaving intended for wearing, technology in design, textile and handcrafts, designs that
utilize innovative techniques, and sustainable or unique materials. *All chosen research presentation abstracts submitted by members of CSA will be considered for the Betty Kirke Excellence in Research Award.*

- **Format at the Symposium:** This is a static exhibit, installed with labels. This year, the exhibition will be at the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum. Creators will present their design during the symposium during a designated time. Further details regarding the exhibition, delivery, and pick up of work will be provided to participants upon notification of acceptance. Designers are responsible for transporting the final design product to and from the exhibition location.

- **Submission for Panel or Discussion Sessions:** Abstracts should discuss inspiration, process, techniques/materials used, and include an explanation of how the creative work advances the field or design process. Garments must be able to be displayed on a mannequin. Include chest, waist, and hip measurements of any garment submissions.

- Subject matter will be evaluated on design concept and development; originality of design and quality of execution; clarity of process; diversity/equity/inclusion/belonging; and quality of communication and overall presentation potential. The rubric for Creative Works Exhibition can be found here.

- **Word and Image Counts for Panel or Discussion Session Submissions:** 500 words (excluding references) and 4-8 clear-resolution images with short captions inclusive of the creation process through finished piece. Images must include detailed internal and external documentation of design and process.

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5. **Professional Development Workshops**

- **Description:** Professional Development Workshops introduce attendees to new topics and content which furthers growth in one’s field or enhances current knowledge. CSA seeks to provide sessions to symposium attendees that address one of the four CSA mission topic areas: education, preservation, research, and design. Topics could be developed for students (selecting a research topic, the job application/hiring process), museum professionals (display, storage, conservation), or researchers (how to find and use various types of primary resources).

- **Format at the Symposium:** Workshops may be formatted as how-to discussions delivered as a lecture demonstration, a hands-on session, or a roundtable discussion, and can either be 90, 120, or 180 minutes long. Sessions may be composed of a single presenter or a group of presenters. Workshops may include a participant fee for supplies, if needed.

- **Submission for Professional Development Workshops:** Abstracts should discuss inspiration and purpose of the workshop, a brief schedule of events/topics or plan of action, a budget, and any workshop needs for facilitation. Subject matter will be graded on originality, planning, diversity/equity/inclusion/accessibility, and quality of communication. The complete workshop application should be submitted by the head facilitator or moderator. The rubric for Professional Development Workshops can be found here.

- **Word and Image Counts for Professional Development Workshop Submissions:** 500 words (excluding references) and up to 4 images (optional).
SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All submissions, regardless of type, the submission form found by clicking here:

2024 CSA Symposium Submission Form

The form is set up to allow multiple submissions—just click the link again. The form includes areas to enter the following information:

- Name (Additional author and presenter information can be added later if the abstract is accepted for presentation. If your abstract is accepted, it will be the submitter's responsibility as the contact person for this submission to provide the details of additional authors and presenters)
- Title/Position
- Affiliation
- Email address
- Phone number
- Submission title
- Submission Category

- Abstract, to be uploaded in one PDF document under 100MB and to include all abstract text and images.
  - Files should be named the abstract title, excluding subtitles (ex. “BeadsOfNavaho.pdf”). Do NOT include author names in file name; doing so will disqualify the entry
  - Abstract text and images should NOT include any identifying information that could nullify the blind juried process. Those that include this information will be disqualified.
  - The following format guidelines must be followed:
    - Text:
      - Use Chicago Style, with references cited as in-text citations in the author-date format—more information on this can be found here
      - Double space text, single space references
      - Text should be 12-point Times New Roman
      - See each submission type above for information about word count
    - Images:
      - Images must be copyright cleared.
      - See each submission type above for information about image count

Need help with PDFs? Do a search on the Internet for “free PDF converter.” Multiple options will come up for you to select. Choose the best one for you and look for online tutorials about that specific software.

CSA MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Submitters and presenters are not required to be members of CSA. Everyone presenting at the 2024 CSA annual meeting and symposium must pay the registration fee and attend the
symposium day on which they present. Conference registration information will be available sometime around March 2024. Discounted registration fees will be available for CSA members. For membership information, please visit: https://www.costumesocietyamerica.com/membership-benefits.

**TIMELINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL, CONFIRMATION, AND PRESENTER REGISTRATION**

Call for Submissions release date – August 15, 2023
Abstract Submission Deadline – October 15, 2023
Notification of Acceptance – December 15, 2023
Deadline for Presenters to Confirm Participation in Symposium – January 15, 2024
Deadline for Presenters to Submit Final Abstract and Image* - January 15, 2024
Deadline for Presenters to Register for Symposium – TBD (most likely in April, 2024)

*Please note: presenters will be required to submit a strictly limited 500-word maximum abstract in Chicago-style, with references cited as in-text citations in the author-date format, and one image for the proceedings. Word count for the proceedings includes endnotes (used for substantive comments) and reference list.

**NOTE TO STUDENT MEMBERS**

If your proposal is accepted, you will be eligible to apply for the CSA Adele Filene Student Presenter Grant. This award is to assist you with your symposium registration and travel expenses.

**ABSTRACT SELECTION**

All abstracts will be peer-reviewed by specialists in the area of submission, utilizing a standard rubric for each category. The identities of both the submitters and reviewers will be hidden. Accepted abstracts will be edited and published in the symposium program. Only copyright-cleared images will be accepted for publication. Costume Society of America does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, or ability.