

**The Committee on Symposium Format recommends the following:**

**1. Retain the format of holding biennial symposia.**

The biennial format seems the optimal balance between continuity and expenditure (of time and funds, both for the host and the attendees). Given that so many ACSAA members already attend annual functions (CAA, AAS, Wisconsin especially) we feel that one more would be difficult to maintain. In addition, there are only so many of us able to host a symposium at our institutions.

**2. Retain the single session format (as opposed to concurrent sessions).**

Whether teachers, curators or students we all cover the full spectrum of material presented at ACSAA; a previous attempt at concurrent sessions left attendees and presenters frustrated.

**3. Experiment with a change in the timing of the symposium to begin Thursday lunch time and continue through Saturday evening (with no Sunday morning sessions) or to actually be somewhat shorter, beginning with a Thursday dinner and ending Saturday night.**

The change in timing is an attempt to retain more members through the entire symposium, keep the final session-speakers from feeling penalized, and better accommodate coast-to-coast travel.

**4. Vary the length of presentations by adding some PechaKucha-style mini-presentations (20 slides for 20 seconds each or some adaptation thereof).**

This rapid-edit approach establishes a fresh format for the future, allowing the presentation of ideas or projects in their formative stages. In addition, interspersing panels containing traditional 15-20 minute papers with panels containing "brainstorming" mini-presentations relieves tedium and allows members to receive colleagues' timely commentary without the pressure of constructing a fully-fleshed argument.

**5. Individuals would not be selected to present a full-length paper at the symposium following one in which they had presented a full-length paper unless there were not enough submissions of appropriate quality to fill the program.**

This is designed to permit more members to have an opportunity to present. However submissions for PechaKucha-style presentations would be open equally.

**6. Symposium participants would all have the opportunity to propose a discussion topic for a table at breakfast and/or lunch during the symposium and, if selected, host/chair that table.**

This would not only foster discussion on topics of mutual interest, but also lead to greater integration of groups (especially graduate students and younger scholars with senior scholars). Topics would be proposed to the organizers in advance and then posted at the beginning of the symposium; attendees would then sign up in advance (the day before or that morning) for the table/topic of their choice.

**7. Call for themed panels to go out prior to the call for individual papers although the number of themed panels should balance with the number of individual-paper panels at the hosts/organizers discretion.**

Member feedback preferred this in lieu of a pre-symposium themed day. It allows greater coherence, including focus on themes closely related to the venue (e.g. a special exhibition, collection, individual) while still allowing room for panels with individual papers. Should there be a particular reason for a topical pre-symposium gathering directly related to a venue, such as the major exhibition that occurred in San Diego in 2005, a pre- or post-symposium day may be added by the host/organizers on an ad hoc basis.

**8. 'Nuts and Bolts' presentations and discussions**

Whether as mini-sessions, single papers, or lunch topics, organizers may solicit and accommodate occasional 'nuts and bolts' sessions dealing with tools (e.g. digital cameras, mapping software), teaching or career advancement techniques, exhibition design or concepts, etc.

**9. Different format (or beginning/end 'hook')**

Depending on scheduling and at the discretion of the organizers, add an especially engaging and different event (e.g. a collaborative presentation such as junior/senior scholar, 'Charlie Rose'-type exchange or debate, performance piece, host curator's gallery talk) to vary the rhythm and encourage members to arrive 'on time' or stay to the end.

**10. Organizing/ Paper-Selection Committee: The host(s), the President of ACSAA, the ACSAA graduate student Board member; others at the discretion the aforementioned.**

The host(s) would continue to serve as this is important for their investment in the symposium, and the ACSAA President for continuity and to respond to procedural questions. The addition of the graduate student Board member would give a fresh perspective to the process. Others could be invited to participate at the discretion of the above group.

**11. Submit final versions of abstracts in advance and reproduce them to be distributed as part of the conference packet.**

**12. Record all talks on video (if possible) or audio with attached 'slide' show and embed them on the ACSAA website with a private link created for YouTube that only ACSAA members can access.**

This would provide access for members unable to attend, including international scholars, and create an archive of for the future of the field. It would not compromise publication since it would be limited to ACSAA membership. It would also allow members to 'self-curate' talks into alternative 'panels' by linking across panels or years.