

# UK Maritime Heritage Forum, 2022

## Sea Change: challenges and opportunities for UK Maritime Heritage

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, 19-21 October 2022

### CALL FOR PAPERS

This October the Maritime Heritage Network will convene the United Kingdom Maritime Heritage Forum (UKMHF) for the first time since 2019. As organisations and individuals - through museums, archives, historic or working ships - we are all preserving, sharing and seeking relevance for our heritage within a changing world. The contemporary significance of the maritime sector has become more visible in recent times, and together, working across maritime heritage, we can embrace new challenges and create opportunities.

This year's UKMHF aims to embrace change head-on, to apply lessons from recent experience and to look forward. Whether you are a senior leader or consultant, a conservator, curator or archivist, a historian or researcher, a specialist in engagement or interpretation, a volunteer or operator of working craft – or a mixture of all - we want to hear your experiences and ideas on adapting to change.

The conference theme is '**Sea Change**', with sessions structured to look at best practice and creative responses in different areas.

- **Creative Change**  
Which recent changes have proved valuable, and which will be transitory? Will hybrid events continue? How have digital and on-line projects adapted and benefited? What further change is necessary for heritage organisations to flourish?
- **Environment and Climate Change**  
How can maritime heritage organisations work sustainably? What are the most pressing risks to maritime heritage from climate change? How are you meeting these challenges? How can we engage new audiences through the theme of climate change? Can we use climate change to encourage new interpretations of our heritage?
- **Widening Access and Participation**  
What changes will improve access (both physical and digital)? How can we adjust and offer best practice to increase participation? How can our ships, collections and narratives be mined for under-represented histories, or connect to debates on decolonisation? Which new communities can we engage with and how?

We welcome proposals for papers on any aspects of the conference theme, from within the maritime heritage community or from beyond. Insights and best practice from other sectors will be warmly welcomed, so please do share this call for papers beyond your usual networks. The UKMHF provides a platform for connecting a wide range of different voices, specialisms and organisations and the final conference programme will be structured accordingly.

## **Proposals**

20-minute illustrated paper – these can provide either an overview of an issue or focus on a case study. Speakers are asked to provide a 20-minute illustrated presentation.

5-minute summary – an opportunity to share your updates, ideas and experiences of change, presented as a short verbal update.

Whilst the conference will have a hybrid element for attendees, it is anticipated that all speakers will be present in person. All speakers contributing 20-minute papers will have the conference fee waived. Unfortunately, we are unable routinely to meet travel and accommodation costs, but will prioritise assisting speakers who do not have institutional support.

## **How to submit**

Please submit a summary of your proposal in up to 300 words by Friday 13 May 2022 to [sarcher@rmg.co.uk](mailto:sarcher@rmg.co.uk). Please state whether you wish to present for 5 or for 20 minutes.

The final UKMHF programme will be released by the summer of 2022 with full information for speakers and delegates.

## **Venue**

The Forum is being jointly hosted in the museums, ships and historic buildings of the Mary Rose Museum, National Museum of the Royal Navy, and Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust.