



## **Call for Conference Proposals ASLE 2019 Biennial Conference**

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment hosts a large international conference every second year. Recent conferences have included from 700 to 850 participants from approximately 30 countries, and been hosted by such institutions as the University of Idaho (2015), the University of Kansas (2013), Indiana University (2011), the University of Victoria (2009), and Wofford College (2007). These are five day gatherings, usually occurring in mid- to late June. We are very excited about our upcoming conference, at Wayne State University in Detroit, from June 20-24, 2017.

In addition to the paper sessions that are typical of most scholarly conferences, our conferences feature pre-conference seminars conducted by leaders in the field, roundtable discussion sessions, creative readings, workshops, and field trips. The conferences include stellar plenary speakers; past plenaries have featured Donna Haraway and Anna Tsing, Stacy Alaimo and Cary Wolfe, Edward O. Wilson, Sandra Steingraber, Bill McKibben, Linda Hogan, Rob Nixon, and Zakes Mda, to name just a few. The conference also endeavors to include collaborations with local businesses, artists, activists and food growers and sellers, with a strong focus on sustainability, diversity, and accessibility (including accessibility for people with disabilities).

ASLE is currently searching for a host institution for our 2019 biennial conference that will both expand upon the successes of past conferences and help take us in important new directions. Specifically, we are looking for a 2019 host institution that will help us develop a more significant presence in a part of the North American continent that has not recently hosted ASLE, that will connect us with environmental justice and other concerns oriented to that region, and that will be able to support and inspire new work in the interdisciplinary Environmental Humanities by making use of both local and international talents.

Here are some of the advantages of hosting an ASLE biennial conference:

- it will bring to your institution prominent ecocritical scholars, in addition to top-flight creative writers and well-known environmental activists, thus raising the profile of the environmental arts and humanities at the host institution and in the larger community
- it will be an excellent opportunity to showcase, on an international stage, local writers, artists, critics, activists and environmental concerns that are important to your region
- it will place your institution “on the map” for future students and faculty considering work in the area of the environmental arts and humanities
- it will be an excellent opportunity to involve graduate and undergraduate students in all facets of the conference, including organizational apprenticeships as well as presentations in a supportive but rigorous interdisciplinary environment

- it will be an excellent opportunity for environmentally-invested scholars, writers and artists in your region to come together and to use ASLE support to develop a stronger regional relationship
- it will provide the opportunity to apply for, in partnership with local/regional non-profit organizations, an ASLE Community Grant of up to \$5000 for a project foregrounding the intersection between local environmental activism and the environmental arts and humanities

The ASLE guidelines for conference proposals gives a sense of the kind of facilities, staffing and other capacities a host institution should have, and what a successful proposal should address. They can be found on our website: [http://www.asle.org/wp-content/uploads/ASLE\\_Conference\\_BiennialGuide.pdf](http://www.asle.org/wp-content/uploads/ASLE_Conference_BiennialGuide.pdf).

**The deadline for conference proposals is April 5, 2016.** Please submit proposal documents to Amy McIntyre, ASLE Managing Director, at [info@asle.org](mailto:info@asle.org).

Thank you very much for considering the possibility. If you have any questions or if you would like to pursue the possibility of developing a proposal, please contact ASLE Co-Presidents Christoph Irmscher ([cirmsche@indiana.edu](mailto:cirmsche@indiana.edu)) and Anthony Lioi ([alioi@juilliard.edu](mailto:alioi@juilliard.edu)).