

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TEACHING WITH **PRIMARY SOURCES**
Regional Program

E PLURIBUS UNUM: Teaching the Past, Shaping a Shared Future

2026 TPS Eastern Region Conference

Frick Room, Omni William Penn Conference Level

Tuesday, June 16, 8:45 am – 4:15 pm

7:30a – 8:45a	<i>Buffet Breakfast and Networking</i>
8:45a – 9:00a	<i>Welcome</i> Vivian Awumey, Library of Congress Barbara Kirby, TPS Eastern Region
9:00a – 10:00a	<i>...and Justice for All</i> <i>Explore how students engage with complex and contested ideas of justice, democracy, and belonging through primary source inquiry. Panelists reflect on classroom experiences, share challenges and successes, and consider how teaching these themes helps students connect the past to their roles in the present.</i> Lightning Jay, Binghamton University Ariana Moir, The Immigrant Learning Center Eric Soto- Shed, Harvard Graduate School of Education <i>Facilitator: Andrea Kolb, WITF, Inc.</i>
10:00a – 10:15a	<i>Break</i>
10:15a – 11:00a	<i>Opportunity Alert: Library of Congress Lewis Houghton Initiative</i> <i>Get an inside look at the latest TPS LHI resources, featuring ready-to-use curricula and practical tools designed for immediate use in your learning environment</i> Ben Dumbauld, Teachrock.org, A People’s Playlist Sahar Muradi, City Lore, Harikiatha to Hip Hop Anne Richards, FableVision, Library of Congress Mixtape Bert Snow, Snow & Co, Music of US
11:00a – 12:00p	<i>Compelling Questions, Informed Citizens: Teaching Economics with Primary Sources</i> <i>Examine how integrating economics with history and democracy through primary source inquiry fosters student curiosity and strengthens critical thinking. Panelists will showcase C3 Framework strategies and share primary sources that support students in developing and responding to compelling questions about economic issues.</i> Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, Montgomery County Community College Jessica Schocker, The Pennsylvania State University - Berks <i>Facilitator: Elise Langan, Bronx Community College</i>
12:00p – 1:00p	<i>Lunch Buffet</i>

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Tuesday, June 16, 2026, continued

1:00p – 2:00p	<i>“Technocurious” Teaching: Where the Archive Meets the Algorithm</i> <i>What happens when primary sources meet generative AI? This session moves beyond lesson-plan generation to showcase how AI can help analyze historical texts, model inquiry, and deepen student engagement—while building critical AI literacy through a “technocurious” lens.</i> Amy Allen, Virginia Tech David Hicks, Virginia Tech
2:00p – 3:00p	<i>We the People: Inquiry as the Heart of Democracy</i> <i>Showcase of current TPS Eastern Region Grants</i> Oliver Room and Phipps Room, Conference Level
3:00p – 4:00p	<i>My America: An Illustrated Experience</i> <i>What does America mean to You? In honor of the nation’s 250th Anniversary, the Heinz History Center and the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators share the collaborative exhibit that explores this very question.</i> Roy Fischer, Senator John Heinz History Center Sierra Green, Detre Library and Archives, Heinz History Center Tara Zalewsky, Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators
4:00p – 4:15p	<i>Conference Wrap-up</i>
5:30p – 8:00p	<i>Networking Reception at Olive or Twist</i> 140 6th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 <i>Meet in the Lobby at 5:15p to walk over together</i>

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Wednesday, June 17, 8:45 am – 12:00 pm

7:30a – 8:45a	Breakfast Buffet and Networking
8:45a – 9:00a	Welcome Back Barbara Kirby, TPS Eastern Region
9:00a – 10:15a	Teaching to Transform: Fellowship Stories of Growth, Impact, and Purpose <i>Eastern Region members of the Inaugural group of TTI Fellows and Facilitators reflect on the Initiative experience and their classroom implementation of TPS.</i> Jennifer Burke, Millerville University Nandita Gurjar, Rhode Island College David Hicks, Virginia Tech Laurie Risler, Holyoke Community College Facilitator: Sara Evers, Ferrum College
10:15a – 10:30a	Break
10:30a – 10:45p	Opportunity Alert: Social Studies Journal <i>Publish your TPS professional practice story!</i> Jessica Schocker, The Pennsylvania State University - Berks
10:45a – 11:15a	Scaling Impact: From Regional Innovation to National Influence—and Back Again <i>Explore Teaching with Primary Sources grant opportunities from multiple perspectives.</i> Kelley Brown, Private i History Detectives/Easthampton Public Schools Derek Furr, Bard College Deb Fowler, History UnErased Sarah Westbrook, Right Question Institute Facilitator: Laurie Risler, Private i History Detectives/Holyoke Community College
11:15a – 12:00p	Future Opportunities: Library of Congress & TPS Eastern Region <i>The Library of Congress, America 250, and beyond. Parting details, questions, stipends, and evaluations.</i> Vivian Awumey, Library of Congress Barbara Kirby, TPS Eastern Region Jana Kyle, TPS Eastern Region
Noon	Farewell - Conference adjourns