



“Celebrate Our Civic, Community and Cultural Heritage”
2nd Annual Regional Conference on April 24, 2010
Historic Pensacola Village in Downtown Pensacola, FL

Dear Colleague,

West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. (WFHPI) announces our upcoming regional conference in April 2010. The theme of this year’s conference will focus on **civic education, community** and our shared **cultural heritage**.

The need to support civic education and engagement is more manifest now than ever. According to a 2009 report by the *Florida Joint Center for Citizenship*, the state of civic culture in Florida is in poor condition and failing. This is attributed to factors, such as high-stakes testing that obligates educators to limit time spent on civic education, the current economic climate that adversely affects the state budget, charitable giving and involvement, and a younger generation that is becoming more detached from political institutions and the democratic process. Most state leaders agree that civic education is essential to insuring the future strength of American values and practices.

WFHPI is in a unique position to address these issues as an established part of the community. Our **mission for this event is to better equip educators** to teach local history, civics and heritage by providing them continuing education opportunities, resources and materials. We also hope to provide a venue of discussion for all community heritage, local history and civic enthusiasts. This conference will enable teachers to collaborate with one another, share and equip, and better instruct their students.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to support our education system and community. Not only are we anticipating another successful conference, but we plan to use this opportunity to create a civics camp aimed toward local middle and high school students. This camp, “Civic Spirit at Historic Pensacola Village,” will focus on concepts of democratic principles, the practice of local and state government, and civic responsibility. I ask that you become involved by offering your input, financial support or time. Sponsorships for lunches, receptions, certificates and materials are greatly needed. Would you please consider making a donation to help cover our costs? All sponsors will be recognized during the event and any balance carried over from the conference will go directly toward the civics camp. There is also the opportunity to submit a session proposal form if you would like to be considered as a presenter at the conference. We encourage you to attend as well; registration forms are available on the websites listed below. If you have any thoughts or suggestions of potential collaborations, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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Registration Forms:
www.historicpensacola.org
www.fcsc.org

For further information, please visit:
The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship;
<http://www.floridacitizen.org/>
Center for Civic Education;
<http://www.civiced.org/>