Cori Convertito  
*Scholar, Historian*

Cori Convertito, Curator and historian at the Key West Art & Historical Society received her doctorate in maritime history from the U.K.’s University of Exeter. Today Convertito creates and curates art- and history-rich exhibits that attract about 250,000 annual visitors to Key West's The Custom House, Lighthouse & Keeper’s Quarters and Fort East Martello.

**Programs Available**

**Florida Keys or Bust! A History of Tourism**  
The talk focuses on the development of the Florida Keys as a tourist destination. It walks through the islands' history to discover why they maintain their allure for travelers. Why did tourists visit and how did they get here? Where did they stay and what activities were available? And just who were these tourists? Were they people in search of the perfect climate to recuperate from health concerns or were they members of the gay community coming to enjoy its ‘come as you are’ attitude? Following the Fish: Ernest Hemingway in Key West  
Ernest Hemingway, who lived and worked in Key West throughout the 1930s, immersed himself in Florida Keys game fishing and did much to popularize it among fellow writers, readers, and sportsmen. While it is well known that Hemingway enjoyed boating giant marlin, tuna, and other prey, it is not often acknowledged that he was involved in conservation activities and was fascinated by recording accurate details from his trips. Hemingway had a vested interest in safeguarding the fish population.