

Western Museums Association Program
Committee: Session Proposals

Western Museums Association

Last updated: July 29, 2020

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Regular session/panel
(roundtable, single speaker,
etc.)

0.1 Open Doors: Making All Feel Welcome at a Niche Museum.

ID: WMA2020.SP34

Assigned to: Doug Jenzen

Track:

Some museums naturally serve a very focused demographic in their region. Join representatives from 3 “niche” museums to learn about how they strive to stay true to their mission and core audience while making sure that all in their region feel a sense of welcome and belonging. This session will identify challenges and strategies to creating a welcoming environment and sense of belonging when your museum has a tight mission that serves a specific audience.

Session Information

Format: Regular session/panel (roundtable, single speaker, etc.)

Uniqueness: This session tackles the difficult question of how niche museums welcome others into a largely mono-cultural community without compromising topical interests or diluting authenticity.

Objectives: - Empower other museums to embrace an “all are welcome” mentality. - Identify challenges unique to “niche” museums that serve a very specific audience by default. - Share strategies for creating welcome and belonging outside of a core-cultural audience.

Engagement: Engagement during the session will take the form of a slideshow presentation followed by a Q&A. We will need a microphone (preferably cordless) for the audience if the session is recorded and/or amplified. We will also need a projector and screen for audio/visual presentations.

Relationship to Theme: - Refining mission statements and values - Embracing diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility - I also think this session fits with the theme of FORWARD in that it may provide insights into how we can build bridges in an era where people across the globe are becoming more and more polarized and insular.

Additional Comments: I have reached out to several people to be panelists. Currently, Gravity Goldberg (Director of Public Programs and Visitor Experience, The Contemporary Jewish Museum) has confirmed her interest and availability to be a panelist. Phillip Thompson (Executive Director, Idaho Black History Museum) has expressed interest. I have a few other irons in the fire as well. I am trying to find 3 panelists that will cover a few different perspectives on this topic as well as being representative of different types of museums at various scales. One area I am lacking

panelists is around the issue of creating welcome beyond a group of core enthusiasts. (For our museum that might mean making "non-car-people" feel a sense of welcome and belonging at our motorsports museum.) I am open to suggestions and ideas for additional panelists that have had successes at their museum that they can share.

Audience

Audiences: Curators/Scientists/Historians Events Planning Marketing & Communications (Including Social Media)

Professional Level: Emerging Professional General Audience Mid-Career Senior Level

Scalability: My target audience are other museums that serve a very specific demographic in their region. However, I believe that the lessons learned at our session will still be applicable and beneficial to museums with a broader scope.

Participants

Matthew Suplee

Submitter, Moderator, Presenter
Exhibit Developer
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I will mostly be moderating but I was planning on briefly presenting some of the challenges that our motorsports museum faces: bringing Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion to a largely mono-cultural audience; creating appeal beyond just the motorsports community, and bridging diverse (and sometimes conflicting) socio-political viewpoints. I was going to use those challenges to set the stage for the panelists to present success stories from their museums on those fronts.

Gravity Goldberg

Presenter
Director of Public Programs and Visitor Experience
The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
ggoldberg@thecjm.org

Successes in making non-Jewish persons feel welcome and included at CJM.
(*confirmed*)

Phillip Thompson

Presenter
Executive Director
Idaho Black History Museum, Boise, ID
phillip.thompson@p-johnson.net

298-340-4448

I need to talk to him more but I am under the impression that he has worked to share the experience of being a black Idahoan in a region where the vast majority of people are not persons of color. I am curious how he has made inroads and what techniques he uses to reach people. *(not confirmed)*

**Half-day workshop (9:00
a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

0.2 Maximizing Social Media for Professional Development

ID: WMA2020.WK2

Assigned to: Jason Jones

Track: Technology

Social platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Reddit present evolving opportunities for museum professionals to share resources, ask questions, recognize trends, and amplify experiences for the benefit of the sector. This session will include strategies for finding peers to follow, hashtags to use, and groups that serve as gathering spaces for different areas of museum work. Participants will enhance their understanding of how to use social networking during and after the WMA Meeting.

Session Information

Format: Half-day workshop (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Fee: No

Uniqueness: I do not think this type of workshop has taken place at previous WMA meetings. It will help participants maintain connections after the meeting ends.

Objectives: Participants will leave the workshop with an enhanced understanding of how to: 1) Use social media platforms to find and solicit information related to their area(a) of museum work; 2) Find, create, and/or join online groups related to their area(s) of work; 3) Publish information to larger circles of online audiences. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of how to use social networking during the 2020 WMA Annual Meeting and after leaving Portland.

Engagement: Participants will be encouraged to log into their individual social media accounts at the start of the workshop in order to follow along as I show them how to find and solicit information on various platforms. They will be encouraged to ask questions, join groups, and publish posts during (or soon after) the session, depending on their comfort level.

Relationship to Theme: Our sector's forward momentum depends on greater collaboration and communication. We are more efficient when we are constantly learning from one another, sharing resources, and amplifying our experiences for the benefit of the sector. Aspects of our work can be very similar but many of us work in small departments with modest budgets for training and research; social media is an inexpensive way of connecting people with questions to people with possible solutions.

Additional Comments: Happy to merge with another session and/or bring in additional speakers, depending on where this fits into the conference program.

Audience

Audiences: Marketing & Communications (Including Social Media) Technology

Professional Level: General Audience

Scalability: This topic is relevant for museum professionals at all types and sizes of organizations.

Participants

Maren Dougherty

Submitter, Moderator, Presenter
EVP, Communications and Visitor Experience
Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA
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323-495-4259

If this fits into the program as a shorter workshop (e.g., lunchtime workshop), I could be the main presenter. If expanded, I could introduce the topics and ask social media savvy peers to offer case studies of how they have used specific social media platforms.

Maren Dougherty

Presenter
EVP, Communications and Visitor Experience
Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA

(confirmed)

0.3 Visual Tools that Share Why Your Museum Matters

ID: WMA2020.WK4

Assigned to: Jason Jones

Track: Business

Why does your museum matter? How are you creating positive change in your community? This hands-on, half-day workshop will introduce museum professionals to a variety of tools that they can use to answer these questions for themselves, stakeholders, community members, and funders. Participants will learn how to use visual Theories of Change, Theories of Action, and Logic Models to capture “why” and “how” they are making a difference.

Session Information

Format: Half-day workshop (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Fee: I would like to keep the fee minimal while covering the cost of materials such as sticky notes, chart packs, markers, and print outs for people to use at the workshop and take back to their institutions. I suggest 10/person.

Uniqueness: Visual impact models help museums articulate their value in ways that engage and inspire stakeholders, staff, partners, and funders.

Objectives: Participants will: 1. Understand how to use a Theory of Change, Theory of Action, and Logic Model to articulate organizational impacts. 2. Create draft versions of each tool to take back to their institutions and adapt for their programs. 3. Return to their museums with at least one sample activity/facilitation technique that they can lead to develop each tool further with their staff, communities, and stakeholders.

Engagement: The workshop will focus on interactive visual thinking strategies including: • Illustrate the museum’s vision for how positive change happens and how their institution supports this process. • Group “Storyboarding” to identify logical connections between audiences, museum/community needs, desired impacts, and exhibits/programs. • Discussions by museum type to articulate their “9 Whys”—why their institutions exist and how they benefit their communities.

Resources needed: projector/screen, tables, chairs, chart paper, markers, sticky notes, evocative images/icons, creativity, willingness to participate

Relationship to Theme: How do we move forward without a vision for change?

How do we excite stakeholders and funders to support us without clearly articulating our vision? This workshop helps people develop the tools that they need to clarify and share their impact, allowing them to move forward.

Additional Comments: I am an independent museum professional (aka, a consultant). I am not expecting to be paid for my work to prepare or present the workshop, nor am I doing this to sell my services. I was asked by a colleague to propose this workshop so that more museums, especially rural museums, smaller museums, and museum staff asked to take on fundraising/engagement responsibilities, could learn more tools for sharing why their institutions matter. That said, I will be using my work as an example in the workshop and hope that participants will see me as a resource afterwards. If the review committee has any questions or suggestions about how the workshop can provide the most benefit to participants or potential co-presenters, I'd love your input.

Audience

Audiences: Curators/Scientists/Historians Development and Membership Officers Marketing & Communications (Including Social Media)

Professional Level: Mid-Career Senior Level

Scalability: Visual impact models can be used by any type and size of museum for a variety of purposes from strategic planning, interpretive planning, and fundraising.

Participants

Kyrie Kellett

Submitter, Moderator, Presenter
Principal
Mason Bee Interpretive Planning, Portland, OR
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503-419-7735

I will facilitate the workshop. I have led several organizations through the process of creating visual impact tools, and look forward to sharing what I've learned with other museum professionals.

Kyrie Kellett

Presenter
Principal
Mason Bee Interpretive Planning, Portland, OR
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503-419-7735

I was asked by colleagues to share what I know about how to create visual impact models for museums. (*confirmed*)

**Full-day workshop (9:00
a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)**

0.4 test

ID: WMA2021.001

Assigned to: Kathleen Daly

Track: Indigenous

1. Session description! Here it is!

A big headline

1. An ordered list
2. The second item in the ordered list
3. The third item

More paragraph content and such.

Session Information

Format: Full-day workshop (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Fee: 5.00

Uniqueness: test

Objectives: testing

Engagement: test

Relationship to Theme: asdfasdfsad

Audience

Audiences: Facilities Management Personnel Marketing & Communications
(Including Social Media) Technology

Professional Level: All professional levels General Audience

Scalability: asafdsfasdasdas asdasdasd asdasdasdas

Other Comments: asdfasdfsdfsdfsdfsdfsdf

Participants

Koven Smith

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Justy

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asadsadf (*not confirmed*)