



Mid-Atlantic
Association of **Museums**

AUTHENTIC VOICE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE

MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
ANNUAL MEETING 2023 / WILMINGTON, DE

OCTOBER 10-12, 2023



[MIDATLANTICMUSEUMS.ORG/ANNUAL-MEETING](https://midatlanticmuseums.org/annual-meeting)

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WELCOME TO MAAM 2023

WELCOME COLLEAGUES!

The MAAM Board is excited to welcome you back to Wilmington, Delaware, a diverse city with a wide variety of cultural offerings. The program committee has planned some exciting sessions to get your creative juices flowing and offer case studies of innovation.

Many individuals and committees helped to make this conference possible. Special thanks are due to our annual meeting co-chairs, Amanda Gillen from the Frick Pittsburgh and Melissa Kiewiet from the Dyckman Farmhouse Alliance, and to their planning committee. MAAM extends its gratitude as well to all of the institutions that opened their doors for the pre-conference tours.

At this meeting, we welcome our new Executive Director, Kahla DeSmit. I hope that you will take some time to meet and get to know her at this conference. She is anxious to hear your ideas and suggestions about MAAM's direction and programs. My thanks also to our Membership & Operations Manager, Michelle Paulus-Baumgarten, and our conference planning graduate assistants Hunter Sakowsky, Kara Jones, Shaina Gormley, and Calen Cavallero for their significant efforts in making this conference a success.

The corporate and educational sponsors for this annual meeting have generously supported the field and MAAM, and I encourage you to read more about them in this program and take some time to visit the Exhibitors' Hall during the conference. Their products and services will help you to stay current in the profession. I always get new ideas just by walking through the hall and talking with the exhibitors. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors.

This year, staying true to our values, we place a special emphasis on our commitment to inclusion. Many of our sessions showcase projects that center diversity and address ways that museums can expand their access. We recognize our presence on Native lands and commit to honoring this presence in an active way.

This will be my last annual meeting as MAAM President. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with this important organization and to help to steer its direction with the help of an engaged and talented board. I look forward to continuing to be involved with MAAM and seeing its development with our new director at the helm. We are also particularly fortunate to have Deborah Schwartz, an outstanding leader and thinker in our profession as our next president.

We know that all of you will enliven the discussions over the next several days with your experiences. Thank you for lending your voices and your expertise to the 2023 MAAM Annual Meeting.

Gretchen S. Sorin, Ph.D.
Director and Distinguished Professor
Cooperstown Graduate Program
MAAM Board President

AUTHENTIC VOICE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE

HELLO AND WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome you to Wilmington, Delaware. We are thrilled that so many of you are able to join us for honest conversations about authentic experiences in the field.

It has been our honor to serve as co-chairs of the 2023 Annual Meeting, and we want to thank all those who submitted proposals for a conference session. Getting a firsthand look at the exciting work happening in museums throughout the region is a privilege for those of us who work on planning this conference.

We sincerely thank the members of the Program Committee, Local Arrangements Committee, and Sponsorship Committee for the many hours of time they volunteered to create a conference that will engage and inspire us all. This conference also would not be possible without the support and efforts of the MAAM board members - talented, devoted professionals from every state in our region who are supporting the conference in ways both seen and unseen.

We also want to thank the staff of all the museums who have opened their doors to us for tours of their spaces and exhibitions, providing additional opportunities for museum professionals to meet and talk about some of our favorite things—museums!—while highlighting some of the best parts of the Wilmington area.

We have done our best to create a program that is thoughtful, useful, and energizing, but we hope to hear from you! Session evaluations, in-person comments, and feedback given to MAAM in other ways are important to our planning committee as we develop other programming to serve MAAM members, so we thank you for giving us your thoughts on your experiences over the next couple of days.

Lastly, we want to share a sincere thank you to MAAM's new Executive Director, Kahla DeSmit. Kahla came in the midst of conference planning and, with what looked like minimal effort, instantly began coordinating and planning a wonderful conference for us all to enjoy and learn from. We are so grateful.

MAAM board members and conference co-chairs,

Amanda Duniyak Gillen
Director of Learning & Visitor Experience, The Frick Pittsburgh

Melissa Kiewiet
Executive Director, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Museums have the capacity to inspire wonder, solicit appreciation, and call us to deeper and meaningful conversations around ourselves, culture, and society, both past and present. I've immensely enjoyed my time working with MAAM's dedicated board of directors, committee members, and volunteers as we worked to curate meaningful learning opportunities that help us consider and respond to ways we can make museums more equitable and share a complete and inclusive history. I'm looking forward to reflecting and learning from the creative and ground breaking work of our session presenters as they share models, discussions, and case studies of their work in making museums more welcoming and engaging places.

Thank you to MAAM's board of directors and our conference co-chairs for moving us forward and bringing us together to experience our collective authentic voice.

Kahla DeSmit
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:00pm – 2:30pm	TOUR: Longwood Gardens	1001 Longwood Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348
12:00pm – 4:00pm	TOUR: Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library	5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735
1:00pm – 2:30pm	TOUR: Nemours Brandywine Building	1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803
3:30pm – 4:30pm	TOUR: Delaware Art Museum	2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806
3:30pm – 4:30pm	TOUR: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science	4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807
5:30pm – 7:30pm	OPENING RECEPTION at Delaware Historical Society including tour of Mitchell Center for African American <i>Sponsored by Science History Institute</i>	504 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast	Gold Ballroom
7:30am – 5:00am	Exhibitors' Hall Open	Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom
8:00am – 9:00am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Cheyney McKnight <i>Sponsored by Marshall Craft Associates, Inc.</i>	Gold Ballroom
9:15am – 10:30am	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1 1. Northern Slavery Collective: Institutions Supporting Institutions 2. Stable Collections Environments for All 3. Learning through Games: Expanding Stories and Audiences with Cooperative Play <i>Includes a virtual presenter</i> 4. Baseball in Review: Rethinking Established Systems and Standards	Christina Room King Sejong Knowles Newark
10:30am – 11:00am	Coffee Break	Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom
11:00am – 12:15pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 1. Refreshing Ourselves in the Gallery: Exercises for the Quiet Eye 2. New Directions in Funding 3. Approaching Authenticity: Designing More Inclusive Practices at the Delaware Historical Society 4. We Are All Spartans	Newark Christina Room King Sejong Knowles
12:30pm – 1:45pm	Leadership Lunch <i>by invitation - Sponsored by Cooperstown Graduate Program</i> Or lunch on your own	Gold Ballroom

2:00pm – 3:15pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

1. Labor Organizing in Museums: Power Dynamics Transformed
2. Access for All
3. If These Walls Could Talk...
Includes a virtual presenter
4. Flint, MI: One Community, Many Voices

Christina Room
King Sejong
Knowles

Newark

3:15pm – 3:45pm

Coffee Break and 1st Time Attendees
Meet and Greet with MAAM

Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom

3:45pm – 5:00pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4

1. Crossing the Line
2. How to Support Title I Schools - No Matter What Your Budget
3. DEALJ for Museums: So What? Now What?
4. Authentic Connections: Reimagining Historical Societies

Christina Room
King Sejong
Knowles
Newark

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Awards Reception

Sponsored by JacobsWyper Architects

Gold Ballroom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast	Gold Ballroom
7:30am – 5:00pm	Exhibitors' Hall/Small Business Showcase Open	Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom
8:00am – 9:15am	Stephen Weil Memorial Lecture <i>Sponsored by The HR Sage</i>	Gold Ballroom
9:15am – 9:45am	Coffee Break	Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom
9:45am – 11:00am	Special Session: Reassessing Purpose: Towards Equity, Democracy and Justice	Gold Ballroom
11:15am – 12:30 pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5 1. "Are We Part of the Same General Public?": A History of Disability Advocacy and Inclusion in the Arts 2. Interpretation Reimagined: What, Why and How we Did It 3. Recontextualizing Asian Art: Fostering Authenticity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Western Public Institutions	Christina Room King Sejong Knowles
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Business Luncheon <i>Sponsored by Milestone</i>	Gold Ballroom
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Resume Review/Career Conversations	Christina Room
3:15pm – 4:30pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6 1. Authentic Experiences for Children and Families: Exhibits and Play 2. Tell Me What You Want (<i>What You Really, Really Want</i>): An Honest Conversation about Constituent Engagement 3. CETA: Arts and Culture Catalyst of 1973-1981 4. Concept to Reality: Building Museums Starter Guide	Christina Room King Sejong Knowles Newark

GUEST SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Cheyney McKnight

Afroterpreting

Wednesday, October 11, 8:00am

Location: Gold Ballroom



Cheyney McKnight is Manager of Living History at New-York Historical Society, where she develops and runs Living History Programs.

She is also owner of Not Your Momma's History, a public history consulting business that aids museums and historical sites in talking about the African experience within 18th and 19th century America. Not Your Momma's History runs a YouTube channel with over 240,000 subscribers and 5 million views, that shows the day to day lives of Black people throughout American history.

Cheyney has taken her "Let's Talk About Slavery" table to over 30 parks, historical sites, and public events across America to provide a safe place for people to learn and talk about the history of slavery. She provides handouts to encourage people to further their education beyond that one interaction.

Cheyney graduated from Simmons University in 2011 with a bachelors in Political Science. In 2021 Cheyney was chosen to be an African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Fellow for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Her project, titled *The Ancestor's Future: An Afrofuturist Journey Through History*, was both a piece of performance art and a conversation inspired by Afrofuturism about the future of historic preservation on former sites of enslavement. Cheyney uses clothing designs that meld modern textiles that speak to the Black experience in America with 18th and 19th century silhouettes.

Sponsored by Marshall Craft Associates, Inc.

STEPHEN WEIL MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thursday, October 12, 8:00am

Location: Gold Ballroom

For more than two decades, Steve Weil was one of the giants in our museum region. As a visionary in the museum field, many of his writings from the 70s, 80s, and 90s are as relevant and provocative today as they were then. Traditionally, the Weil Lecture has been presented by one eminent person in the field. This year, it is a panel of museum professionals who, like Steve, are poking, prodding, and moving the field forward.

Derek Gillman

Derek Gillman is Distinguished Teaching Professor, Art History and Museum Leadership, and Executive Director, University Collections and Exhibitions. He was an art museum leader for almost thirty years, on three continents, and has been involved in the construction and renovation of five museum buildings.

Wendy Luke

Wendy Luke is a Professional Certified Coach (PCC), coaching and training C-suite executives and high potential mid-career professionals. She consults with organizations to create, reinforce, and sustain healthy and healing cultures. Her client base is both for-profit and non-profits including museums. She was married to Stephen Weil and many of their dinner conversations subsequently were incorporated in Steve's many published essays. Today, Wendy and her dog Molly are a therapy dog team.

Gretchen Sorin

Gretchen Sullivan Sorin is Director and Distinguished Service Professor at the Cooperstown Graduate Program/SUNY Oneonta. A museum professional with more than 30 years of experience in nonprofit management and exhibition development, she writes and lectures frequently on museum practice, diversity and inclusion, and African American history. Her most recent book is *Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*.

Greg Stevens

Greg Stevens is principal of Purple Cow Career and Talent Development and most recently former director of the MA in Museum Professions program at Seton Hall University. Greg is a career coach, educator, museum geek, theater artist, reflective practitioner, good husband, and friend. He is co-editor of *A Life in Museums, Managing Your Museum Career*.

Ranald Woodaman

Ranald Woodaman is the Exhibitions Director, National Museum of the American Latino and has been with the Smithsonian for more than 19 years. He has a strong interest in constructions of ancestral heritage and history in Latino communities.

Sponsored by The HR Sage

SPECIAL SESSION

Reassessing Purpose: Towards Equity, Democracy and Justice

Thursday, October 12, 9:45am

Location: Gold Ballroom

"Purpose isn't the most important thing in the museum, it's the only thing," argued Stephen Weil in 2005. "If [a museum] fails to provide a social benefit, it wastes society's resources. To produce a social outcome—to provide a positive benefit to its targeted audiences—must be such an organization's first responsibility." In this town hall session, facilitated by *Change Is Required* co-editor Avi Decter, four contributors to the 2022 volume—Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell, Jonathan Edelman, Nafisa Isa, and Darryl Williams—will explore what Weil's contention might mean in a moment of nested crises. As museums address issues of equity, justice, representation, authenticity, and community needs, how should we prioritize our practice, programs, and policies? This session will explore ways in which our museums can be places of trust, relevance, and responsiveness. Our hope is that the panelists' discussion of key—and potentially contentious—themes, ideas and strategies will stimulate attendees' conversation, debate, and reflection.

Avi Decter is the co-editor of *Change Is Required: Preparing for the Post-Pandemic Museum* (2022) and author of *Exploring American Jewish History through 50 Historic Treasures* (2024). With Ken Yellis, he is the author of the MAAM White Paper, "Seizing the Moment: A Manifesto for Next Practice" (2021). He hosts *Museums and Change*, a twice monthly forum on ideas and issues confronting contemporary museums.

Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell is a Washington, DC based programming strategist who works at the intersections of social justice practice. In 2023 she was appointed the inaugural Senior Program Manager, Arts with The Aspen Institute, serving to leverage the arts for social impact both inside and outside the organization. She served as the inaugural community engagement specialist with the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) and has launched new programming initiatives with the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and National Museum of Women in the Arts, among others.

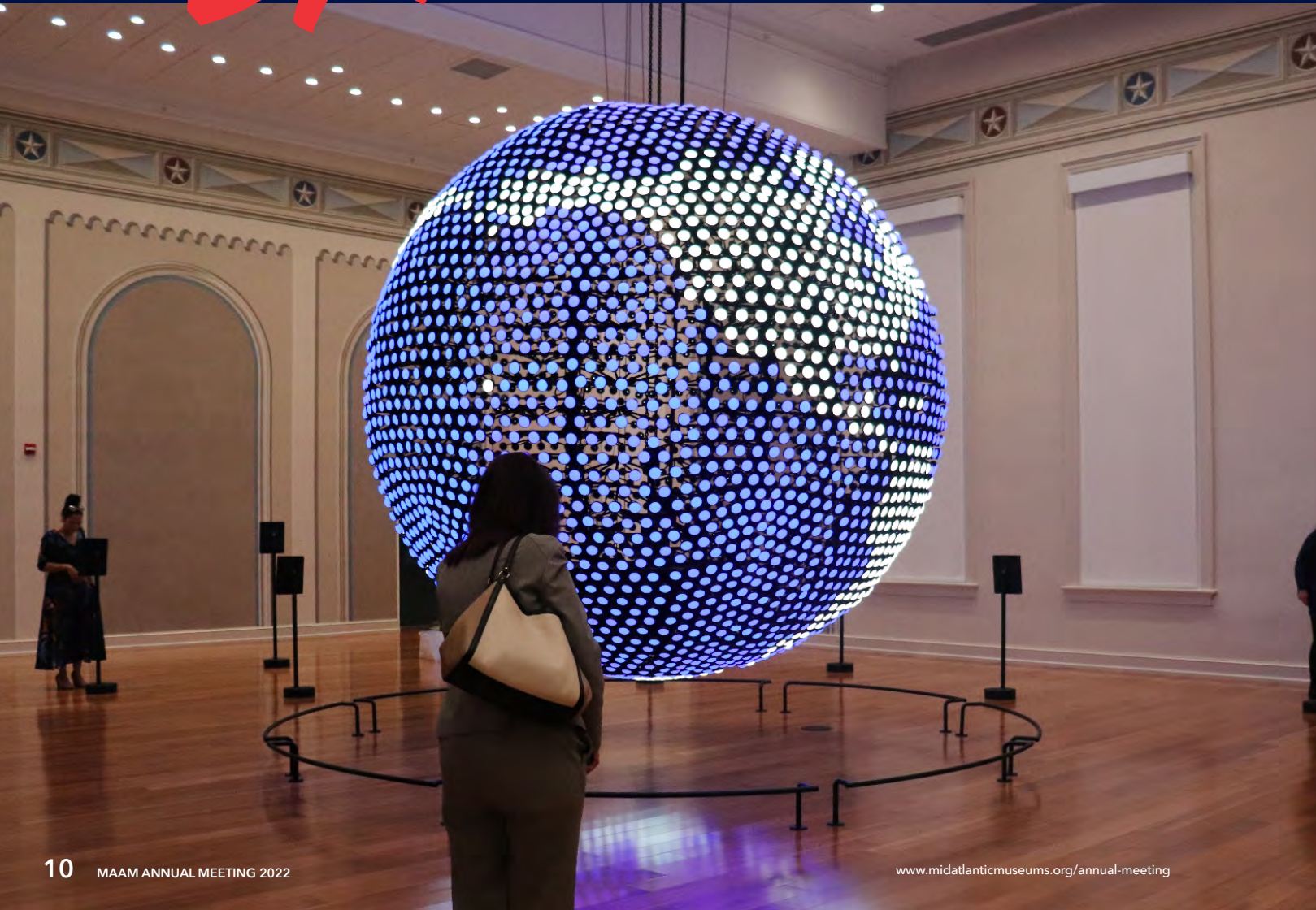
Jonathan Edelman (he/him) serves as the Collections Curator at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC. In this role, Edelman curated the main exhibitions for the new museum, oversaw the museum's archive, and acquired new archival collections. He came to CJM after completing a master's in museum studies at The George Washington University and working for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Nafisa Isa is an educator and designer with a passion for transformative learning and collective liberation. She was the lead planner of the ground-breaking Culture Lab exhibitions during her tenure at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and is the founder of the Muslim Writers Salon at the Asian American Literature Festival. Nafisa holds a BA in history from Davidson College and an MA in Learning, Design, and Technology from Georgetown University.

Darryl Williams, Ph.D, Senior Vice President of Science and Education at The Franklin Institute, is known for his contributions over the past decade as a leader across the enterprise of STEM education research, evaluation, and program development in both formal and informal settings.



AUTHENTIC VOICE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE



WORKSHOPS / EVENTS / OPENING RECEPTION

OPENING RECEPTION

Delaware Historical Society
 Tuesday, October 10,
 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Join friends and colleagues at MAAM's opening reception at the Delaware Historical Society. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres and explore *The Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage*.

The Mitchell Center offers an expansive exploration of the African American experience from 1639 to the present through artifacts, oral history interviews, music, and art. These diverse perspectives of African Americans' struggle for freedom and dignity strengthens Delaware's state-wide community, as they preserve, share, and promote the history, heritage, and culture of the state. The Mitchell Center is located within the Delaware History Museum building and includes the permanent exhibition *Journey to Freedom*.

Location: 504 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Note: Included with Annual Meeting registration or by pre-registration only.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 0.4 miles (10 minute walk)

Sponsored by the Science History Institute

LEADERSHIP LUNCH

Wednesday, October 11,
 12:30pm - 1:45pm
 Room: Gold Ballroom

This invitation-only lunch is an opportunity for the 2023 fellowship awardees and emerging leaders to meet with MAAM board members and others to discuss the museum field and their own career aspirations.

Sponsored by the Cooperstown Graduate Program

AWARDS RECEPTION

Wednesday, October 11,
 6:00pm - 8:00pm
 Room: Gold Ballroom

Join in a celebration of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums 2023 Award Recipients. MAAM will recognize the winners of the Emerging Professional Award, the Making an Impact Award, and the Katherine Coffey Award. Light refreshments will be provided.

Sponsored by the JacobsWyper Architects

BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Thursday, October 12,
 12:30pm - 2:00pm
 Room: Gold Ballroom

Join fellow conference attendees for lunch, conversation, and updates from MAAM leadership about goals and plans for the next year. We also introduce both new MAAM board members and our 2023 Fellowship awardees.

Sponsored by Milestone

RESUME REVIEW/ CAREER CONVERSATIONS

Thursday, October 12,
 2:00pm - 3:00pm
 Room: Christina Room

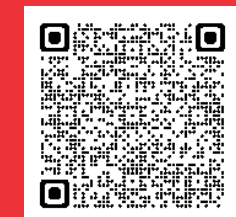
Do you need advice on organizational change? Have questions about how to develop a collections reorganization policy? Need to have someone look over your resume? Bring your career questions and/or resume to our MAAM board members or sit and discuss with colleagues in your field. Open to all career levels.

Advanced registration strongly recommended.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES CONSULTATIONS

By appointment
 Room: Lower Foyer of the Gold Ballroom

Meet one-to-one with IMLS Program Specialist Lola Clairmont to discuss funding opportunities. Get an overview of IMLS programs and initiatives and ask your specific application questions! Available in 15-minute intervals, Wednesday, October 11 & Thursday, October 12, 9:30am to 5:00pm. Sign up required.



Sign up here

MUSEUM TOURS

Longwood Gardens

Tuesday, October 10, 12:00pm – 2:30pm

TOUR: Museum Staff Guided Tour with focus on Implementation of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility priorities in Programming and Facility Planning.

At the heart of Longwood Gardens' mission is inclusivity, bringing joy and inspiration to everyone. Over the last decade, Longwood has embarked on a strategy to ensure the Gardens embrace inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA). Join Chief Human Resources and Culture Officer, Shelley Dinehart, Human Resources Manager, Sarahi Zamores, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Nick D'Addezio, and Associate Director of Landscape Architecture and Program Design, Erin Feeney, as they share what inclusive placemaking means to Longwood, how they are utilizing workforce and workplace strategies to evolve the staff and culture, and how they are utilizing programming to achieve their IDEA goals.

Additionally, learn about the history of Longwood Gardens and what it takes to achieve these initiatives within the horticultural beauty you'll see during this guided tour. Longwood Gardens is one of the great gardens of the world, welcoming over 1.6 million guests a year to experience extensive outdoor gardens, an imaginative indoor Conservatory, a vibrant natural meadow, and more.

Location: 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Note: Pre-registration required. Transportation will not be provided. Lunch provided. Space is limited. Museum is closed on Tuesdays, so expect to see museum and landscaping staff working and no general public visitors.

Carpool platform: www.groupcarpool.com/t/oe6i2d
Feel free to use this website for self-organized carpool arrangements with tour participants.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 11.6 miles

Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library

Tuesday, October 10, 12:00pm – 4:00pm

TOUR: Museum Staff presentation about tour initiatives followed by a self-paced tour.

Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library is known for the magnificent collection of American decorative arts on display throughout the former home of Henry Francis du Pont. You are invited to spend the afternoon on a self-paced tour of the house, museum galleries, or the colorful 60-acre naturalistic garden in the 1000-acre estate of rolling hills, meadows, and woodlands (accessible by tram ride!). Start with lunch -- bring your own or purchase in the Visitor Center Café -- and enjoy a special Winterthur dessert with the Interpretation & Engagement Team. Staff will introduce the development of current tours that create relevant experiences and how the history of the Greenhouse features in a sense of place that is uniquely Winterthur.

12:00pm: Arrive at the Visitor Center Private Area for BYOLunch or purchase food at the Visitor Center café. Share a special Winterthur dessert!

12:30pm: Interpretation and Engagement team introduces Winterthur initiatives.

1:00pm – 4:00pm: Participants are welcome to join a self-paced tour, visit the Ann Lowe: American Couturier exhibition, or explore the gardens.

Location: 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735
Note: Pre-registration required. Transportation will not be provided. Space is limited.

Carpool platform: www.groupcarpool.com/t/va78bc
Feel free to use this website for self-organized carpool arrangements with tour participants.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 6.2 miles

Nemours Brandywine Building

Tuesday, October 10, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

TOUR: Estate Leadership Guided Tour with focus on Collections Stewardship, Storage, and Moving.

Nemours Estate in Wilmington, Delaware, was developed by Alfred I. duPont (1865-1935), industrialist and philanthropist. Set on 200 acres, it features a 77-room mansion, several outbuildings, and French-inspired formal gardens. The Estate's collections, ranging from artworks, furniture, and ceramics to household goods and utensils, along with books and archival materials, are inadequately housed in confined spaces. To improve stewardship, Estate leaders have developed a purpose-built, climate-controlled facility to preserve the collections. The newly constructed Brandywine Building tour will provide perspectives from collection managers and architects, offering insights into best practices and facility design.

Location: 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Note: Pre-registration required. Transportation will not be provided. Space is limited. Registered participants can enjoy free admission to the Mansion & Gardens before and/or after the tour.

Carpool platform: www.groupcarpool.com/t/o23eyx
Feel free to use this website for self-organized carpool arrangements with tour participants.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 3.5 miles

Delaware Art Museum

Tuesday, October 10, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

TOUR: Museum Staff Guided Tour about centering community voices in interpretive planning.

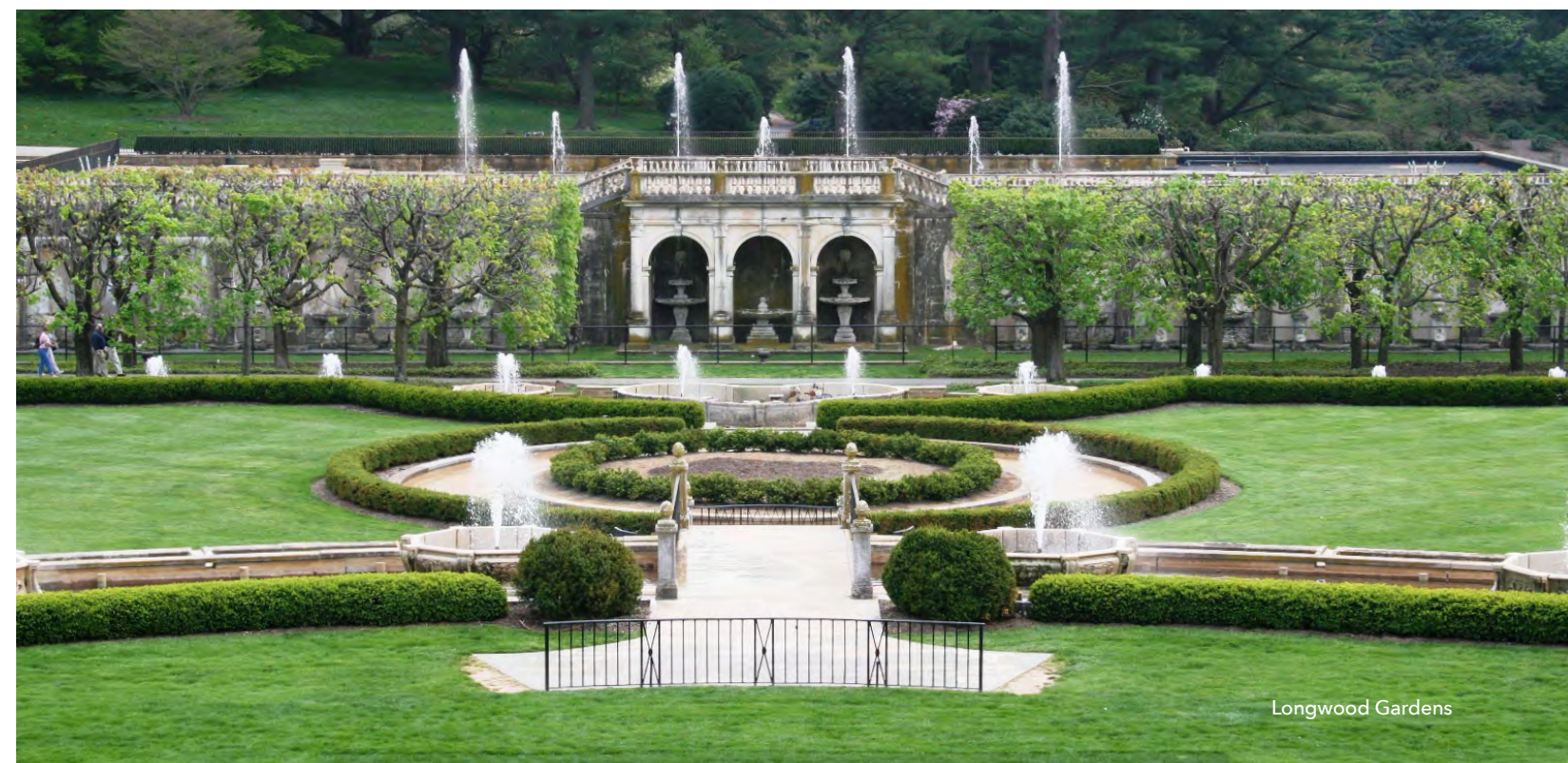
Tour the Delaware Art Museum's American and Pre-Raphaelite galleries and learn how centering community voices in interpretive planning increased relevance for the Museum's diverse community. Curator of American Art Heather Campbell Coyle and Director of Learning & Engagement Saralyn Rosenfield will provide an overview of the interpretive process and share examples of how visitor input can shape the narrative.

Location: 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806

Note: Pre-registration required. Transportation will not be provided. Space is limited.

Carpool platform: www.groupcarpool.com/t/mo6gfj
Feel free to use this website for self-organized carpool arrangements with tour participants.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 2.0 miles



MUSEUM TOURS

Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

Tuesday, October 10, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

TOUR: Museum Leadership Guided Tour with focus on Staff Training for New Exhibits.

In 2017, the Delaware Museum of Natural History embarked on its most ambitious and significant capital campaign since doors opened in 1972. Throughout its history the Museum built its enthusiastic audiences by connecting visitors to science, fostering active curiosity regarding the natural world. When it came time to holistically re-imagine the galleries, the theme of a deeply connected world framed the project process and the design intent.

With extensive input from focus groups, community partners, stakeholder outreach, and experts in the field, a new vision for the Museum has removed barriers (traditional look-in dioramas) and placed guests at the center of nature and science (deconstructed walk-in dioramas). By transforming static dioramas to interactive, ecosystem-based engagements, the new exhibits inspire people to discover, examine, and uncover the wonders of science in the natural world.

Tour the new exhibits and learn how the museum has retrained staff and docents to illustrate how the Museum is not only centering the visitor in the exhibit but how the exhibit experience is centered within the community and the museum recenters itself in the region with a welcoming environment celebrating exploration of our connected world.

Location: 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807

Note: Pre-registration required. Transportation will not be provided.

*Carpool platform: www.groupcarpool.com/t/atn3os
Feel free to use this website for self-organized carpool arrangements with tour participants.*

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 5.2 miles

Mitchell Center for African American Heritage

Tuesday, October 10, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

TOUR: A self-paced tour of the Mitchell Center during the Opening Reception at the Delaware Historical Society.

The Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage offers an expansive exploration of the African American experience from 1639 to the present through artifacts, oral history interviews, music, and art.

These diverse perspectives of African Americans' struggle for freedom and dignity strengthens our state-wide community, as we preserve, share, and promote the history, heritage, and culture of Delaware. The Mitchell Center is located within the Delaware History Museum building and includes the permanent exhibition Journey to Freedom.

Location: 504 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Note: Pre-registration required; transportation will not be provided.

Distance from Hotel DuPont: 0.4 miles (10 minute walk)

AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE

MORE ATTRACTIONS TO EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN

PRE-REGISTRATION WITH MAAM IS NOT REQUIRED AND MAAM NOT COORDINATING VISITS TO THESE LOCATIONS.

Brandywine Museum of Art

1 Hoffmans Mill Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Open Wednesday thru Monday 9:30am - 4:30pm

Brandywine Zoo

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802

Open daily 10:00am - 4:00pm

Copeland Maritime Center and Kalmar Nyckel Tall Ship

1124 East 7th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

*Open Wednesday thru Friday 2:00pm - 4:00pm
and Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm*

Delaware Children's Museum

550 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801

Open Wednesday thru Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm

The Delaware Contemporary

200 South Madison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Open Thursday thru Sunday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Delaware History Museum

504 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Open Wednesday thru Saturday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

DuPont Environmental Education Center of Delaware Nature Society located in the Russell Peterson Wildlife Refuge

1400 Delmarva Ln, Wilmington, DE 19801

*Open Tuesday thru Saturday 11:00am - 5:00pm
and Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm*

Hagley Museum & Library

200 Hagley Creek Road, Wilmington, DE 19807

Open daily 10:00am - 5:00pm

Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights

3000 Creek Road, Yorklyn, DE 19736

Open Thursday and Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

The Mezzanine Gallery

820 North French Street, 2nd Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801

Open Monday thru Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

Mt. Cuba Center

3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707

Open Wednesday thru Sunday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Old Swedes Historic Site

606 North Church Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Open Thursday thru Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm

Read House & Gardens

42 The Strand, New Castle, DE 19720

Open Thursday thru Sunday 11:00am - 4:00pm

Rockwood Park & Museum

4651 Washington Street, Wilmington, DE 19809

Open daily 10:00am - 4:00pm

Toni and Stuart B. Young Gallery at Delaware College of Art & Design

600 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

*Open Monday thru Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm,
Saturday & Sunday 12:00pm - 5:00pm*

University of Delaware Museums

30 N College Ave, Newark, DE 19716

Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

9:15AM - 10:30AM

1) Northern Slavery Collective: Institutions Supporting Institutions

Room: Christina Room

The Northern Slavery Collective (NorSC) will host a panel discussion between three institutional members about their recent interpretive projects and their challenges and successes. They will demonstrate how NorSC, composed of organizations across eight states, comes together to discuss the latest research and interpretive techniques when discussing enslavement in the Northern states. This network of like-minded institutions has acted as a space to work through the challenges of the interpretation of inclusive narratives.

Speakers: Meredith Horsford, Executive Director, Historic House Trust of New York City; Ramin Ganeshram, Executive Director, Westport Museum for History & Culture; Melissa Kiewiet, Executive Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance; and Riah Kinsey, Public Programs Manager, Lefferts Historic House, Prospect Park Alliance

Sponsored by Monadnock Media

2) Stable Collections Environments for All

Room: King Sejong

As museums strive to shed light on untold stories and the inclusivity of collections, they must be equally committed to preserving collections. The new strategies presented in this session can improve collections storage environments with limited controls. Diverse collections exist in museums of all sizes and budgets. However, access to preservation collection environments vital to collections care is limited to institutions with the resources for expensive environmental control systems (heating, cooling, and dehumidification). Many small and mid sized museums store collections in spaces with limited ability to regulate these conditions leading to damage. The presentation will discuss the results of the Sustainable Management of Collections Environments with Limited Controls project, an NEH-funded research project between the Morris County Park Commission, the Image Permanence Institute, and the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts whose goal was to answer how to make low-cost and energy-efficient decisions regarding managing environments. The study used environmental monitoring data in a range of buildings with limited or no HVAC control to make informed cost-benefit analyses and provide mechanical and passive methods to improve conditions. Attendees will learn to analyze their environmental data and make practical choices to improve conditions for the long-term care of all collections.

Speakers: Melanie Bump, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Morris County Park Commission; Dyani Feige, Director of Preservation Services, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts; Christopher Cameron, Sustainable Preservation Specialist, Image Permanence Institute

3) Learning through Games: Expanding Stories and Audiences with Cooperative Play

Includes a virtual presenter

Room: Knowles

Games have the power to transform museum spaces – seriously! Learn how “Voyage Around the World,” a serious game produced by Night Kitchen Interactive and the New Bedford Whaling Museum, expands upon archival stories to include diverse characters, perspectives, and historical moments. Activate the imaginations of your visitors and learn how your institution can leverage serious game design to attract new audiences and visualize untold stories. We animated and gamified authentic moments that were rarely photographed: women who worked aboard whaleships while disguised as men, discreet relationships between shipmates, and everyday life below decks during a multi-year voyage. During this session, you will get to know the best practices for building memorable multiplayer games that encourage conversation, cooperation, and social learning in the gallery. You will learn how to break away from “touchscreen tunnel-vision” to envision shareable interfaces and social interactions that are as fun as they are educational. Game design can be a highly effective way of expanding collections and encouraging visitor participation in a wide range of stories. Bring your own idea and learn how to get started with game design!

Speakers: Valentina Miller, Production Lead, Night Kitchen Interactive; Michael Lapedes, Director of Digital Engagement, New Bedford Whaling Museum

4) Baseball in Review: Rethinking Established Systems and Standards

Room: Newark

In Spring 2020, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum initiated a metadata migration project to transfer all existing legacy data into a new system. As this work began, we quickly realized that we couldn’t simply transfer information from one system to another because much of our data was problematic and created a barrier to access in its existing state; provenance had been dissolved and it included racist, biased, and outdated terminology. In this presentation, we will discuss our reevaluation process including how information is presented and interpreted, deviation from national standardized vocabularies and continued development of local authorities to remove racist terminology, establishing transparent metadata, acknowledging the ramifications of supporting problematic individuals that were intrinsic to the game, and creating partnerships with national metadata initiatives. In addition, we will also review the steps we took to restore provenance and recontextualize donors and their material when possible. Finally, we will share how we hope to move forward, including creating an inclusive, community platform for our users to partner in the digital stewardship of these objects, create and share content, and foster authentic relationships with our collection.

Speakers: Kelli Bogan, Director of Archives and Digital Assets, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; Cassidy Lent, Director of the Library, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

11:00AM - 12:15PM

5) Refreshing Ourselves in the Gallery: Exercises for the Quiet Eye

Room: Newark

“Exercises for the Quiet Eye” is an interactive workshop for anyone interested in taking the time to learn new techniques for viewing art. This workshop is all about doing—exploring, seeing, reflecting, responding. It will consist of a series of guided exercises to explore what we can learn *from* art and artifacts rather than *about* them. Different informal exercises encourage patient reflection, appreciation, and avoidance of hurried pressure to “understand” or the rush to fix an interpretation of what we see prematurely. Originally developed in museum galleries, EQE is for independent visitors as well as adult or children’s groups. It can be integrated into formal education settings and assignments, from teacher training, to studio art ‘crits’ and preparation for writing in the humanities.

Speakers: Annie V.F. Storr, Affiliate Scholar, Brandeis University Women’s Studies Research Center

6. New Directions in Funding

Room: Christina Room

This session will explore the new and ongoing post Covid funding initiatives of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Endowment for the Arts. Panelists will discuss the direction they see for museum programming that serves broad public audiences. What are some model programs across the country? What is new at these agencies and what are some helpful tips to assist them in developing successful applications? This session also provides an opportunity for museum professionals to offer their feedback to program officers at these agencies.

Speakers: Gretchen Sorin, Director and Distinguished Service Professor, Cooperstown Graduate Program; Jeffrey Hardwick, Director of the Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities; Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director for the Office of Museum Services, Institute of Museums and Library Services; Tamika Shingler, Museums and Visual Arts Specialist, National Endowment for the Arts

7) Approaching Authenticity: Designing More Inclusive Practices at the Delaware Historical Society

Room: King Sejong

In this interactive session, colleagues at the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) will discuss how the organization is working internally across departments and externally through community partnership-building to create inclusive practices that translate to more authentic, accessible experiences for its staff and user communities. While this work is intentional, imperfect, and ongoing, each collaboration is a consistent, incremental step toward DHS’s goal of modeling organization-wide practices that are diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Panelists representing the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, Education and Inspiration, and Collections and Access departments will share how these divisions utilize each other’s strengths and resources to bolster initiatives in community outreach, trust building, and agency in developing interpretative frameworks; providing educators with professional development and digital primary sources to support state-mandated teaching of African American history; activating collections through new digital tools for greater community access, and identifying and remediating harmful, outdated language in collections descriptions. Panelists will discuss the successes and challenges of implementing these initiatives, their outcomes and impact, and plans to move forward. The session will conclude with a language remediation exercise, offering participants the opportunity to apply reparative language principles to actual DHS collections catalog descriptions.

Speakers: Ivan Henderson, Executive Director, Delaware Historical Society; Rebecca Fay, Director of Education, Delaware Historical Society; Leigh Rifenburg, Chief Curator, Delaware Historical Society

8) We Are All Spartans

Room: Knowles

Over, under, around, through. Different challenges merit different responses and one person’s solution might not be another’s. These are some of the questions we addressed when forming an Accessibility Plan at Winterthur. A cohesive approach, for the sake of our physically challenged visitors, was necessary - though from one division to the next, our ability to go over, under, around, or through varied. In 2023, we decided to tackle this. We would improve physical accessibility at Winterthur in ways that related to mobility, vision and hearing support, and sensory sensitivity. We would do it holistically, considering both the spectrum of visitor experiences and the breadth of offerings that Winterthur provides. From programming, to tours, exhibitions, facilities, shopping, and dining, we scrutinized the way that guests engage with us, where we fall short, solutions already underway, and where we want to go. And, whereas many institutions have told the stories of their end results, we tell the stories of our divots, valleys, and mud puddles along the way. Creating a unified plan across nearly 300 employees, six divisions, and umpteen different functions has been an exercise in communication, transparency, and realistic expectations. But, just as we will try to help our visitors go over, under, around, and through challenges to the enrichment that a museum can offer, we strive toward the goalpost ourselves. Until it moves. Please join us for a reflection on problem-solving as it relates to providing access and connection to our institution’s collections, forging the more challenging path that goes beyond accommodating visitor’s needs toward the goal of elevating individual’s experiences.

Speakers: Eileen Scheck, Manager of Tour Programs, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library; Jennie Brown, Manager of Audience Engagement, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



2:00PM - 3:15PM

9) Labor Organizing in Museums: Power Dynamics Transformed

Room: Christina Room

Speakers will discuss the organizing efforts in their institutions, talk about how their campaigns succeeded, and the significance of putting a union contract in place as well as some of the harsh realities of organizing in the face of anti-union leadership. The session speakers will entertain questions and talk honestly about the anti-labor sentiment that many museum directors and trustees espouse, the value of more enlightened approaches to labor-management relations, and why unions in museums pave the way for a more transparent, equitable, and stable institutional culture.

Speakers: Deborah Schwartz, Consultant and former CEO of Brooklyn Historical Society; Amanda Bock, Curator of photography, co-lead shop steward, and delegate to AFSCME DC 47, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Dolan Cochran, Education Coordinator for Public Programs and Content, co-lead shop steward, and delegate to UAW Local 2110, Tenement Museum; Grace McGookey, Education Coordinator for Costumed Interpretation, Specialty Programming and Access, co-lead shop steward, and unit chair for UAW 2110, the Tenement Museum



10) Access for All

Room: King Sejong

This panel presentation will showcase the outcomes resulting from the grant funded project, IMLS Sensory Tools for Interpreting Historic Sites. The shared objective of these projects is to transform the museum and historic site experience by fostering inclusivity and accessibility. These sites frequently face inherent challenges that can hinder the engagement of visitors with diverse disabilities, impeding their ability to enjoy a fun and informative visit.

Through collaborative efforts with disability advisors and external consultants, these historic institutions have successfully created and executed innovative accessibility prototypes, fostering a more adaptable and immersive experience. The panel will delve into the strategies recently installed for accessible interpretive programming at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm (Morris County Park Commission), in partnership with renowned institutions such as the Intrepid Air and Space Museum, the Seeing Eye, and Macculloch Hall Historical Museum.

The speakers will present compelling case studies, illustrating how these strategies have successfully engaged individuals with low vision, hearing loss, and diverse neurological characteristics. By fostering accessibility, these institutions have reimaged their role in the community, making museums and historic sites welcoming spaces for all. Furthermore, the panel will emphasize the practicality and cost-effectiveness of these solutions, showcasing their potential for seamless implementation across a spectrum of institutions. Ultimately, this presentation offers a valuable resource for institutions aspiring to create more inclusive and accessible environments, revolutionizing the way history and culture are experienced.

Speakers: Melanie Bump, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Morris County Park Commission; Tricia Pongracz, Executive Director, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum; Aleksandra Simakowicz, Senior Historic Program Specialist, Fosterfields Living Historical Farm

11) If These Walls Could Talk...

Includes a virtual presenter

Room: Knowles

When it comes to authentic museum experiences, place-based storytelling tops the list. Visitors are transported in time and space when they stand under a beloved old tree, walk inside THE room where events happened, or hear a memory from a survivor. But how do we choose which authentic stories to tell? Whose narratives have been left out... and why? This session will pull back the curtain to reveal some answers. For example, in May 2022, James Madison's Montpelier became the first former site of enslavement to create a relationship of shared power and authority with the organization representing the descendants of those enslaved there. Meanwhile, Longwood Gardens is developing content featuring Alice du Pont, whose work there has been largely unsung. Finally, what are the limitations to authentic storytelling when an event or story is far removed from place and time? Panelists will also discuss interpreting the Holocaust or other stories of human rights, when the historical events are anchored in memory versus the physical place.

Speakers: Karen de Seve, Director of Exhibitions & Interpretation, New York Botanical Garden; Elizabeth Chew, Ph.D., Senior Director of Museum Programs and Chief Curator, James Madison's Montpelier; Stacey Mann, Interpretive Planner & Experience Designer, University of the Arts

12) Flint, MI: One Community, Many Voices

Room: Newark

Since 2014, the Flint Water Crisis has represented a pivotal moment in environmental justice and systemic racism. Blue Telescope worked with Sloan Museum to create a representative exhibit for their History Gallery detailing the stories of community members whose lives are impacted by the ongoing crisis. During production, it became clear that the actual faces and voices of Flint residents were the key to reflecting the museum's hometown. Our videography and curatorial teams worked with community members ranging in age, ability, and background to spotlight local stories as told in their own words. Gallery visitors traverse stepping stones, activating conversations that may be controversial, uncomfortable, or uplifting. This session covers the methods used to conduct and curate live interviews with underrepresented members of the Flint community. We will discuss the responsibility of museum teams to listen, learn, and work together throughout the development process with community members, and offer tools and approaches for empathetic exhibit design. Participants will be asked to consider how this case study offers a north star for their own work, and we'll end with a Q&A. Session attendees will walk away understanding that only with many diverse voices can we foster an authentic experience.

Speakers: Judith Zissman, Executive Creative Director, Blue Telescope; Geoff Woodcox, Curator of Collections, Sloan Museum of Discovery & Longway Planetarium; Jerome Threlkeld, Community Engagement Coordinator, Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium

3:45PM - 5:00PM

13) Crossing the Line

Room: Christina Room

Did you know there is a historic tradition for mariners to dress in drag when crossing the equator? Find out how a history museum found a creative way to connect the maritime stories in its archives to drag, and hear from a performer who is both a drag artist and teacher on using a unique style of performance art that combines storytelling, music, dance, and drag. While drag storytelling has made waves in libraries - growing both in popularity and as a target for protests - the presence of drag culture is still rare in museums. In this session, explore the triumphs, challenges, benefits, and lessons learned from The Whaling Museum's experience hosting a drag performer in public programming. Find out what worked and how backlash was addressed, and gain advice from a drag performer's perspective. Get inspiration for ways to invigorate family-friendly, inclusive programming in your own museum with drag artists who inspire others to embrace creative expression.

Speakers: Nomi Dayan, Executive Director, The Whaling Museum; Evita Peroxide, Drag Artist & Teacher

14) How to Support Title I Schools - No Matter What Your Budget

Room: King Sejong

Museums can be a transformative power in opening young minds to new worlds and new ways of thinking. Yet, many teachers in Title I schools face huge obstacles to planning trips to cultural institutions. In 2014, the Penn Museum launched the Unpacking the Past program as a way to address this inequity. Building on ten years of success working with hundreds of schools in the School District of Philadelphia, our presentation will focus on successful strategies for engaging and empowering students and teachers through field trips. With input from Unpacking the Past educators and a teacher from the School District of Philadelphia, we will tell the story of specific barriers that could keep teachers and administration in underfunded districts from participating in museum programs - even if they are free; we'll also explore considerations that should be made for these groups - including strategies that do not require a huge budget. We'll examine the issue through the lenses of community outreach, relationship-building, communications, content, and development.

Speakers: Emily Hirshorn, Associate Director of School Programs, Penn Museum; Francesca Cantarini, 6th-8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, C.W. Henry School, School District of Philadelphia; Camden Copeland, Senior Museum Educator, Penn Museum; Christopher LaChapelle, Senior Museum Educator, Penn Museum; Paul Best, Museum Educator, Penn Museum

15) DEAIJ for Museums: So What? Now What?

Room: Knowles

Have you started, or are you considering beginning your DEAIJ initiative? Do you find yourselves bewildered about what to actually do despite what you already know about Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion, and Justice in the museum setting? You are not alone! It's easy to make lists, and even to make large, sweeping gestures that come off as performative and don't lead to lasting change throughout the organization.

In this workshop-style session, you will learn how to: create and sustain buy-in and build enthusiasm for your DEAIJ initiative; discover your museum's unique DEAIJ needs as a team; communicate with care and courage about civic responsibility; and leverage the capacity of each team member across your institution to realize your goals.

Using exercises from Ms Shellman's AAM-published works, as well as her expertise working with and for a variety of museums across the country, session goers will gather in small groups, using dialogue, imagination, and humor to recall typical museum moments and practice new ways of successfully challenging unhelpful habits. From volunteer to board member, director to sales clerk—all are invited and welcome!

Speakers: Cecile Shellman, Consultant

16) Authentic Connections: Reimagining Historical Societies

Room: Newark

In 2020, the Adams County Historical Society embarked on a daunting capital campaign that culminated in successfully completing the \$12 million Adams County History Center (ACHS) and Beyond the Battle Museum. Now in 2023, the Berks History Center (BHC) is beginning the process of reimagining and refreshing its facilities and exhibits. Executive Directors Andrew Dalton (ACHS) and Benjamin Neely (BHC), along with Design Director Ryan Brogan (HealyKohler Design), engage in discussions about the challenges posed by the shifting expectations of visitors, the fragmented cultural landscape, and pre-existing notions surrounding Historical Societies. They highlight how Historical Society's unique collections and deep community roots bring an authentic perspective to local, regional, and national history.

Learning Outcomes

- Developing more inclusive interpretation can create authentic experiences by amplifying new voices and perspectives while enriching existing narratives.
- Strategies to engage key stakeholders, local community, and donors through accessions and personal connections to collections.
- Raising the institutional profile through programming, immersive media experiences, and social media engagement.

Speakers: Andrew Dalton, Executive Director, Adams County Historical Society; Benjamin Neely, Executive Director, Berks History Center; Ryan Brogan, Design Director, HealyKohler Design

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #5

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

11:15AM - 12:30PM

17) "Are We Part of the Same General Public?": A History of Disability Advocacy and Inclusion in the Arts

Room: Christina Room

As museum practitioners, the goal is always to advance accessibility and inclusion within the arts and culture sector, but in order to move forward it's important to understand our history. This presentation delves into the history of museum professionals and activists creating accessible spaces and programs in museums and other arts and culture institutions, and how these developments line up with major events in the Disability Civil Rights Movement. After an overview of the history, the presentation will address the state of accessibility in today's world based on an evaluation of standards set forth by the ADA, the American Alliance of Museums, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and where we go from here to further increase access to the arts.

Speakers: Armani Wall, Visitor Services Associate/ Accessibility Consultant, Capital Jewish Museum

18) Interpretation Reimagined: What, Why, and How We Did It

Room: King Sejong

Three historic house museums at various stages of major reinterpretation projects share information on what they are reinterpreting, why changes to include many other historical experiences were essential, and the challenges and successes of reframing long standing tour experiences. Staff from Newport Mansions, The Frick Pittsburgh, and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center discuss the processes and strategies that led to successful, inclusive, visitor-centered reinterpretation of the homes of famous white individuals, including gathering institutional support, managing challenges with current staff, and centering the visitor voice. Lessons learned from each of these projects can be applied to areas beyond historic homes.

Speakers: Michelle Moon, Consultant, Saltworks Interpretive Services; Nicole Williams, PhD, Curator of Collections, The Preservation Society of Newport County; Anita Durkin, Ph.D, Visitor Experience Manager, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center; Amanda Donyak Gillen, Director of Learning & Visitor Experience, The Frick Pittsburgh

19) Recontextualizing Asian Art: Fostering Authenticity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Western Public Institutions

Room: Knowles

This conference session aims to critically examine the re-contextualization of Asian art within Western public institutions, emphasizing authenticity, diversity, and inclusion. Drawing inspiration from post-structural and post-colonial perspectives advocated by eminent theorists like Said, Spivak, and Bhabha, this presentation analyzes and investigates several major museums and cultural institutions focused on Asian art and Asian/Asian American audiences. Examples include the National Museum of Asian Art, Museum of Chinese in America, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and Asia Society, among others. The presentation is driven by theoretical perspectives while addressing practical challenges. Its goal is to explore the challenges museums face in the post-colonial era and propose non-oppressive approaches to reevaluating their practices concerning Asian art and American/Asian American perspectives.

Speakers: William Zhou, Museum Researcher, Doctor of Education candidate, George Washington University



3:15PM - 4:30PM

20) Authentic Experiences for Children and Families: Exhibits and Play

Room: Christina Room

Play is an authentic and critical activity in childhood that engages children's brains in ways necessary for learning and development. The United Nations has declared play a right that should be accessible and available to all children, yet, starting from kindergarten children in the United States have increasingly less time to engage in child-driven play. This session will explore definitions of play and how it can be expressed and leveraged to create authentic learning experiences for children. We will collaboratively explore the relationship of play, learning, and engagement in children's, history, and art museums. Participants will consider the questions: What is play? How might we design experiences that engage and teach through play? Presenters will share a draft rubric for identifying and assessing play experiences, and participants will workshop ways that they can increase play opportunities for their young visitors.

Speakers: Sarah Jencks, Deputy Director and Lead for Museum Learning, The History Co:Lab; Rebecca Shulman, Consultant, Museum Questions Consulting; Kristin Scarola, Consultant, Kristin Scarola Consulting

AUTHENTIC VOICE

21) Tell Me What You Want (What You Really, Really Want): An Honest Conversation about Constituent Engagement

Room: King Sejong

In this session, the audience will join with representatives from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network and the Historic House Trust of New York City for an honest conversation about constituent and community engagement. Despite thoughtful planning, HHT and GHHN found that their recently completed History Unpaused project yielded unanticipated results. Using the successes and challenges of the project as a case study, this session will explore the widely relevant and perennial question of "how do we know what our constituents want?"

Speakers: Giulietta Fiore, Associate Director of External Affairs, Historic House Trust of New York City; Priscilla Brendler, Executive Director, Greater Hudson Heritage Network; Kerry Sclafani, Program Director, Greater Hudson Heritage Network; Meredith Horsford, Executive Director, Historic House Trust of New York City; Ran Yan, Executive Director, Lewis Latimer House Museum

22) CETA: Arts and Culture Catalyst of 1973-1981

Room: Knowles

The CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program impacted the trajectory of American art and culture at the culturally critical moment of the mid-1970s, combating racist, sexist, and ableist barriers to arts funding and supporting community arts. During the economic recession of the 1970s, the United States simultaneously faced rising rates of unemployment and inflation. CETA was enacted under President Richard Nixon in 1973 in response to the period's severe unemployment crisis and continued into the Ford, Carter, and Reagan presidencies. Although CETA has received far less attention than the arts programs of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), in many respects it rivals the importance of the New Deal-era initiatives. Working in collaboration with New York's City Lore and Artists Alliance, Inc., the Delaware Art Museum is planning a traveling exhibition honoring CETA as an arts and culture catalyst of the second half of the 20th century.

As 2026 nears, what can we learn from past models, like CETA, to envision a more equitable future? This roundtable discussion will explore CETA's impact on cultural infrastructure, including its support of organization capacity building and inclusive representation throughout the sector. The conversation invites participants to reflect on similar significant cultural touch points of the last 50 years that they consider worthy of critical investigation and documentation in an effort of engaging audiences around the nation's upcoming anniversary.

Speakers: Molly Garfinkel, Co-Director, City Lore, and Program Director, Place Matters; Jodi Waynberg, Executive Director, Artists Alliance Inc.; Margaret Winslow, Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art, Delaware Art Museum

23) Concept to Reality: Building Museums Starter Guide

Room: Newark

Is your organization considering a new strategic plan, capital campaign, or master planning work? Questions on project budgeting, hiring an architect, or where to start with building systems upgrades? This panel and conversation will focus on the variety of topics that are presented at the annual Building Museums conference. Hear from our panelists as we share case studies and conference highlights, and discuss the complexities of revitalizing, building, and expanding museum spaces. Building Museums™ is an annual international symposium created, produced and managed by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) and is open to everyone with an interest in this important topic.

Speakers: Gretchen Coss, Senior VP, Strategic Partnerships, G&A (Formerly Gallagher & Associates); Amanda Duniak Gillen, Director of Learning & Visitor Experience, The Frick Pittsburgh; David Searles, Partner, JacobsWyper Architects; Beth Van Why, Senior Project Manager, Becker & Frondorf

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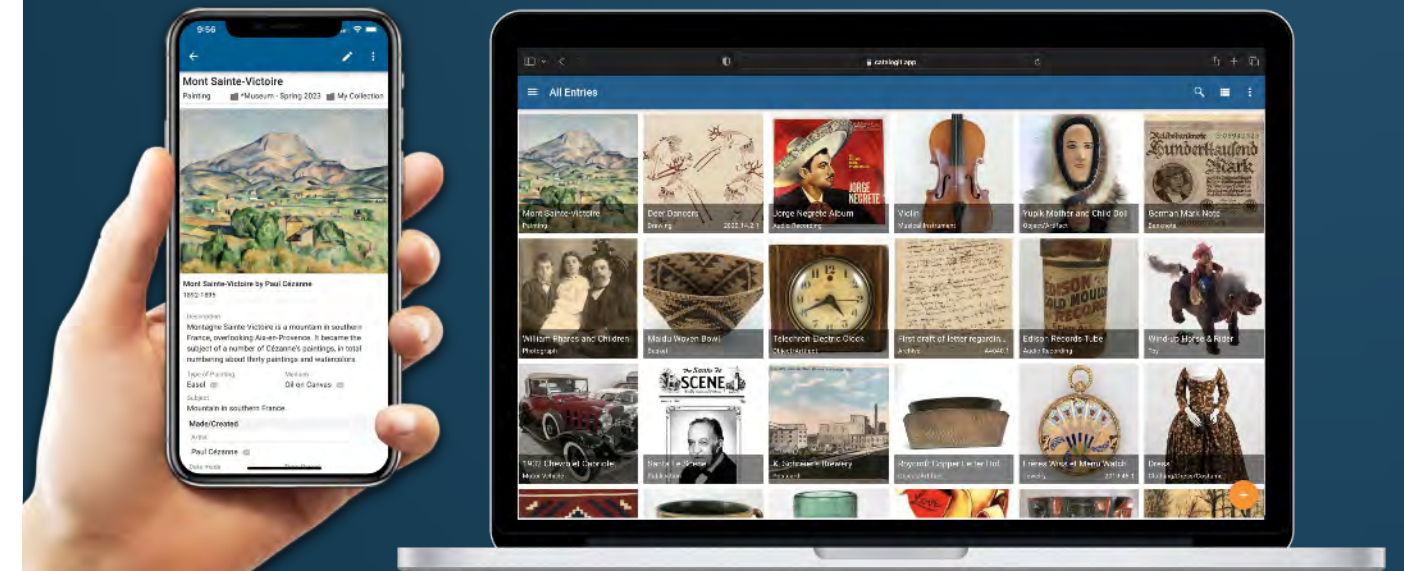
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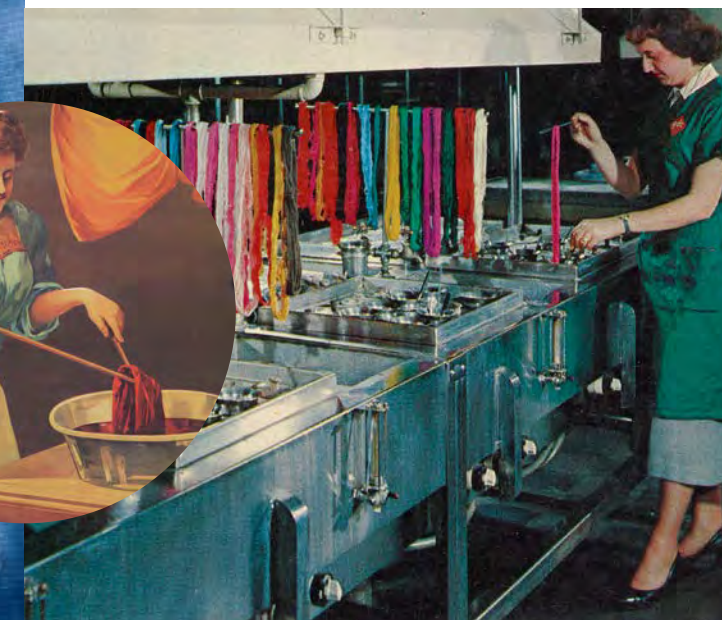
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Located in Alexandria, VA, just south of Washington DC, Mount Vernon is a Palladian style mansion built in the 18th century by George Washington's father Augustine. After George Washington's death, the mansion and property began to decline as revenues were insufficient. In the mid 19th century a group of philanthropic ladies acquired the mansion and estate, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has maintained the property ever since.

The estate has been upgrading its fire alarm and fire suppression system for several years. One of these upgrades included a state-of-the-art networked mass notification system throughout the campus with the addition of VESDA "Very Early Smoke Detection Apparatus" smoke detection in the mansion.

A new Markoff Hi-Fog water mist system is being installed in the Mansion and Historic Plantation out buildings. The water mist, when discharged will minimize the water usage by about 90% compared to a standard fire sprinkler system. The two-phased project is currently in its first stage of installation through December of 2019.

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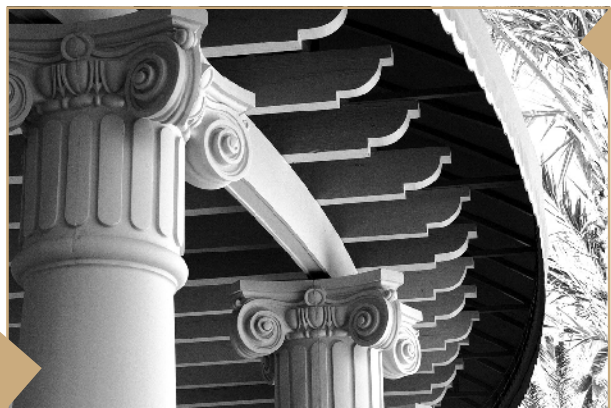
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