

AMM Recommended Conference Session Topics

Broad topics

- Planned giving
- Governance
- Disaster planning/recovering from a disaster
- Collaborative projects
- University and college museums
- Tribal museums
- Best practices/worst practices
- Museums and community revitalization
- Controversies at museums
- IMLS and other grant programs
- Non-traditional programs or projects
- Diversity in Museums
- Women's experiences in museums
- Museum issues at national level
- What is an interactive museum?
- Building for the future
- Integrating archives and museums
- Rural museums and/or small museums
- Leadership development
- Project management

Collections/Curation/Conservation

- Digitization
- The changing role of the curator
- Registration or collections management primer
- The care of prints and drawings workshop
- The challenges of caring for living collections
- Restoration issues
- Caring for your historic house
- Nazi Era provenance
- Collections insurance
- Demonstration/evaluation of collection management software
- Artifact condition reports
- Collecting today for tomorrow: collections planning
- Inventory & found collections
- New registration methods
- Re-housing collections
- Spot tests for registrars and collections managers
- Caring for and building collections
- Crating, packing and shipping workshop
- How to build a teaching collection
- Risk management for cultural collections
- Rightful ownership of collections
- Bequests – When do/can you say no?
- New issues/new Resources

Development/Fundraising/Advancement

- Membership 101
- Securing corporate sponsorships

- Membership programs: successes and failures
- Sustaining membership after the big show
- Generating earned income
- Fundraising ethics
- Advocacy and funding
- Strengthening your museum's financial future
- Fundraising/museum giving
- Building endowments
- For profit ventures in a non-profit world
- Techniques for cultivating donors
- To Gala or Not to Gala?
- Federal Formula Grant initiative

Education/ Programs

- Girl Scout and Boy Scout museum programs
- The educational role of the museum
- Meeting the standards of excellence and equity
- Collaborations with schools
- Learning styles
- Basic education programs for size-challenged museums and sites
- Creating thematic tours and training guides
- Literacy activities in museums
- After school programming
- On-line resources for teachers
- Program development, implementation, and evaluation
- Community learning/community partnerships
- Cultural heritage programming
- Discovery rooms
- Distance learning
- New programs at various museums
- How does educational programming build/support museums?
- Programming for International Museum Day
- Communicating with visitors through drama and theatre
- Producing profitable programs
- After the grant (how to keep a program going--sustainability)
- Object-based learning
- Oral histories
- The latest technology and Tours

Exhibits

- Mount-making workshop
- Writing effective labels
- Hot topics in exhibit development
- Integrating evaluation into exhibit development
- Traveling exhibits from A-Z
- Changing museum exhibits in a more timely manner
- Universal access in exhibits
- Exhibit process (development)
- Exhibit critique
- Museum lighting and design
- Inexpensive museum supports
- Community partnerships/exhibits

Facilities Management/Security

- Museum security issues
- Planning for and surviving construction
- Stabilizing the museum-HVAC/Sunlight/collection protection
- Museum accessibility
- Disaster planning, preparedness, and response

Governance/Management/Administration

- A Perfect Balance: Keys to Successful Budgeting
- Successful succession planning
- Trustees/board members
(Finding, recruiting, and engaging nonprofit board members)
- Governance and leadership
- Accreditation
- Effective strategies for new directors
- Board development
- Challenging your board
- Funding resources & opportunities for museums
- Performance measurement
- Museum insurance
- Money and mission
- Museum administration: effects of the shift to the corporate models
- Museums in transition
- Developing a transition plan for senior management
- Developing a procedures manual
- Developing a strategic plan for your museum
- Strategic planning
- Legal issues for museums
- Tax issues for museums

Human Resources

- Staff retreats
- Building teams (and teamwork) to make joint decisions
- Diversity issues for museums
- Strategies for professional effectiveness
- Time management
- Conflict resolution
- Challenges for small museums
- Multi-tasking in the museum
- Performance evaluations and compensation
- Leadership development
- Compliance with regulations

Marketing

- Learning from profit-minded “edutainment” ventures
- Branding and imaging
- Public message
- The front line: Is your museum a welcoming place?
- Marketing for Rural/College Museums
- Responding to media inquiries

Outreach/Audience

- Visitor evaluations on a limited budget
- Evaluation 101—basic evaluation techniques
- Designing programs for specific audiences
- Diversity in museums
- Outreach: Using technology and distance learning to widen a museum's reach
- How to get (and maintain) repeat visitors

Partnerships/Collaborations

- Building stronger relations with your community
- Partnering with public television
- Cross-cultural collaboration
- International relationships: museum connections outside the U.S. (IPAM)
- Working with advisory groups
- Cultural organizations and local government collaborations

Professional Development/ Museum Studies

- Building staff: professional development opportunities
- Career development for emerging professionals
- Mentoring at the mid-level
- Museum studies programs
- Students programs and projects in museums
- Evaluating internship programs

Retail

- The Bottom Line: The key to a successful museum store
- On-line stores
- In-house or contract out?
- Food service

Small Museums (see other subject headings)

- Small Museums
- Strategic planning for small museums
- Understaffed and under budget

Technology

- Museums and the web
- Digitizing sound recordings and moving images
- Digital Imaging
- Developing and maintaining museum Web-sites
- How can technology foster growth of a museum?

Volunteers

- Working with elderly volunteers
- Recruitment and management of volunteers
- Building a volunteer base
- Mentoring
- Writing a volunteer manual/Effective volunteer training