Minnesota Association of Museums
2017 Annual Conference
Sept. 27–29, 2017 / Ely, MN

Call For Session Proposals
Deadline: Friday May 5, 2017 (5pm CST)

MINNESOTA
ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUMS

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dear colleague,

The Minnesota Association of Museum (MAM) believes we all have something to say, the potential to improve our practice together, and the power to make a difference in our communities. We're bringing museums together.

Minnesota is home to more than 600 museums—a number representing twice as many per capita as the national average. Our museums, located in every county and region, range from art museums to history centers, science museums and zoos to children's museums and multi-disciplinary centers. Every day our organizations serve and enrich communities large and small across our state, bringing education and enrichment opportunities to visitors and neighbors alike.

Each year, MAM brings together the museum community to discuss best practices, new strategies, and emerging solutions that are strengthening museum practice across the state at our Annual Conference. Our 2017 Annual Conference promises to be the leading museum networking event that takes place in Minnesota this year, with a simple, shared vision: to understand the work we're doing across the state and make the communities we serve more healthy, vibrant, and sustainable. This conference is a catalyst for innovation, transformation, and collaboration in museums, galleries, and heritage sites all across Minnesota.

We know that museum work doesn't just happen inside your institution, it makes its way out in the community, into the landscape of the Land of 10,000 Lakes. So this year, we're heading north and escaping to the rejuvenating wilderness and iconic Minnesota destination of Ely, MN. Inspired by Ely's symbiotic relationship with nature and culture of preservation, we will dig deep into how our institutions make an impact beyond our walls every day. Our brief respite in the North Woods will activate and inspire us to return to the communities and neighborhoods we work in and be energized to make them better through the field we share.

Whether you're a collections manager, a museum educator, front of house staff at an environmental center, volunteer at an art museum, in a senior management position, or entering the field as an emerging museum professional, MAM's 2017 Conference needs your story, your voice, your strategies.

The Minnesota Association of Museums Board of Directors and Program Team invite you to submit proposals for sessions and workshops at this year's Annual Conference. Your stories, strategies, and presentations are valuable and can inspire new ideas, build partnerships, and change the museum community in our state. What can you share with us?

Head North with us!

Sincerely,

Molly Huber, Chair
Scott Pollock, Vice Chair

creating
healthy
communities

sept 27–29, 2017
ely, minnesota

conference overview

Location: Ely, MN
Dates: September 27–29, 2017
Information: minnesotamuseums.org/2017conference

Theme:
Creating Healthy Communities Together

Goals:
Museum stakeholders and conference participants will leave with an increased understanding of and pathways forward for increasing:

- The impact that the museum field has on the economies and livelihoods of the communities in which they exist.

- Museums' role in leveraging their arts, cultural, environmental, and historical assets toward these ends.

- Best practices for our field, including but not limited to collections management, education, visitor services, interpretation, preservation, communication, and administration.

session proposal guidelines

The Minnesota Association of Museums invites you to submit opinions, expertise, case studies, discussions, and practical advice around the three broad topics below. Not sure your work fits into one of these tracks? Think again!

Diversity & Inclusion
What are museums doing to improve lives and create inviting, accessible, and inclusive communities? With this category, we want to hear about partnerships, programs, exhibits and interpretation, and policy changes that have helped you to connect with visitors of all kinds and reach beyond your walls to make intentional outreach into your community.

Creative Economies
How are museums contributing to sustainable economies across Minnesota? We know that museums have an economic impact and we want to hear about how your work revitalizes and recharges your community, how you measure your impact, and how you communicate the value your institution brings to your community.

Environmental Awareness, Interaction, & Sustainability
What are museums doing to create a culture of sustainability and environmental awareness that may be both outward facing (e.g. environmental awareness and messaging) and/or inward facing (e.g. sustainable and green practices)? In Minnesota, we love to get outdoors. Tell us about how your innovative work gets people outside, connects and educates your community with the natural world, or how your museum is working to preserve your environment for future generations.

session formats

Option 1: Formal Presentation
- 15 minute presentations as part of a larger panel presentation and Q&A.
- Chosen submissions will be grouped based on topic.
- Wi-Fi and projection equipment will be available. Additional AV requests must be submitted with proposal.

Option 2: Workshop
- 60 minute workshop
- Workshops can take place both indoors as well as outside "on the trail" in the North Woods surrounding Ely.
- Any AV needs must be submitted with proposal.

submission information

Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2017 / 5pm CST
Submission Location: minnesotamuseums.org/2017proposals

You will be required to submit the following information:

- Title of presentation or workshop
- Conference track best related to your presentation or workshop (Diversity & Inclusion; Creative Economies; or Environmental Awareness, Interaction, & Sustainability)
- Museum practice your proposal applies to best (multiple categories accepted)
- Name (or names), positions or titles, and contact information for presenters
- Organization(s) you represent
- Summary of your presentation or workshop and should include relevant links or links to images, as well as what you expect attendees to learn from your session. (500 word maximum)
- Description of your presentation (750 characters maximum) for publication.
- AV needs

Questions should be sent to programs@minnesotamuseums.org. All proposals will be put to our peer panel and those registered as the main proposal contact will be informed of the decision by Monday, May 22, 2017.

Please Note:
- Speakers and workshop presenters are required to cover their own conference registration fees—no speaker or presenter discounts apply.
- Speakers and workshop presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs and will receive no payment.
- MAM offers a limited number of conference scholarships for qualified individuals. Please visit minnesotamuseums.org/2017scholarships to learn more.
- MAM reserves the right to pair proposals together and/or alter the presentation timeframe.

mam conference committee

The MAM Conference Committee is responsible for the review and selection of program sessions and work to ensure that the program reflects a thoughtful balance of institutions, topics, and perspectives. The committee is comprised of museum professionals representing

diverse professional expertise, regional affiliations, and institutions.

evaluation criteria

The MAM Conference Committee uses the following criteria when reviewing session proposals:

- The session ideas, purpose, and learner outcomes are clearly focused and well-articulated.
- The qualifications and rationale for presenters clearly support the purpose and learner outcomes of the session proposal.
- The session proposal is organized, well-conceived, and well-developed.
- The topic is important, timely, and relevant (this may include emerging trends, technology, global perspectives, or other content that is boundary pushing, thought-provoking and unique).
- The format is interactive, promoting connection and networking rather than the traditional lecture and PowerPoint format; participants are encouraged to interact, share ideas, and learn in a variety of ways.
- The proposal content can be applied to a diverse range of disciplines, cultural perspectives, geographic locations, and/or museum size.
- Proposal presenters/moderators should reflect diverse communities and viewpoints.

Proposals may NOT be accepted based on the following criteria:

- Topic is too narrowly focused to have broad appeal.
- Topic does not offer any new insights or innovation in the area.
- Proposal description lacks clarity and/or specificity.
- Proposal content lacks applicability to a diverse range of disciplines, cultural perspectives, geographic locations, and/or museum size.

disqualification

The following will result in disqualification and disqualified proposals will not be reviewed by the MAM Conference Committee:

- Proposals that have the appearance of being "too commercial" (focused on specific products and services).
- Proposals that do not include a museum professional employed in a museum as a moderator or presenter.
- Proposals that are incomplete (e.g. presenters are not listed).

diversity, equity, accessibility, & inclusion

The Minnesota Association of Museums respects, values, and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We believe that our strength lies in our diversity among the broad range of people and museums we represent. We consider diversity and inclusion a driver of institutional excellence and seek out diversity of participation, thought, and action.

additional notes

Session Organizer:

- If the proposal is accepted, the organizer will serve as the session's primary point of contact and will be responsible for coordination between session members and MAM.

- The Session Organizer will NOT be listed in publications. If you are both a session organizer and presenter or moderator, you must also enter yourself as a presenter/moderator in the appropriate field.

Session Title & Description:

- Proposed Session Title: Your session title should not exceed 60 characters (approximately 10 words). We encourage you to develop a title that is not only catchy, but also accurate to the session content.

- MAM reserves the right to edit accepted session titles and descriptions, with approvals by Session Organizer.

- Your published description should be no more than 750 characters (approximately 125 words) and should align with your selected session format. Summaries should be compelling, but must also be concise and clearly articulate learning outcomes that participants will learn if they attend your session.

- This description will be displayed on the MAM website and any other published materials pertaining to the conference.

Developing Your Proposal:

- Please reference the Evaluation Criteria as you develop your proposal.

- MAM's audience is diverse, with a rich background of knowledge and experiences. Attendees learn best when those experiences are acknowledged and new information builds on their preexisting knowledge.

- For the most part, attendees are pragmatic in their learning and want to apply their learning to present situations. If the information is theoretical, they want to see a clear connection to their situations.

- Sessions that have received the highest ratings have been those where attendees have been active participants in the learning process rather than passive recipients of knowledge.

- You may also share other information that the reviewers may find interesting (e.g. Has this content been presented elsewhere? Did this program win an award? Are there interactive components planned?)

- All moderators and presenters must be registered for the Conference and be a MAM member at registration. Session Organizers, please check with your moderators and presenters to ensure that their MAM membership is up-to-date upon selection.