

CURCOM

UPDATE

Greetings from your Chair!

Preparations are well under way for the 2008 AAM Annual Meeting in Denver. The Black American West Museum was secured as the site for the CurCom reception on Sunday, April 27. Several sponsorships have been guaranteed for the following: one of the fellowships, the reception, and the CurCom business luncheon. These will allow CurCom to make the events even more interesting and also keep the costs down to you, the members attending.

Probably during the middle of October, the National Program Committee will meet in Denver to select the sessions that will make up the entire program slate. CurCom has four guaranteed slots, and they are filled. There were a few more proposals presented, and we are hopeful that all will make the final program. CurCom is represented by a member of the SPC Council, who will intercede for our sessions. In addition, James Burns, the CurCom Fellowship Chair, is on the National Program Committee, and has promised to work toward acceptance of all CurCom's sessions! But...it's not too early to be thinking of a proposal that you might like to bring to the attention of the Program Chairs for 2009. Contact Jim Hoobler or Bruce MacLeish for information and assistance. We need more program sessions to attract curators - and you are those presenters.

Inside

CurCom Fellowship Awards Offered	5
Museums Invited to Share their Stories	6
Exhibits, the Internet and the 'Good Wife's Guide'	7
Denver Annual Meeting Theme	11

Early next year you will be sent the new proposed Guidelines to consider and vote upon. Please do be sure to register your comments; according to the current Guidelines, the vote must be taken at the Annual Business luncheon, so your comments should be directed to Jim Hoobler. This is your Committee, and you have a voice in how it is run. I am not sure when these will go out, but do be looking for the Guidelines, in either a separate mailing or *Update*. The new edition of the CurCom Ethics Code is still in the planning stages but might also be ready for consideration in the spring; John Mayer is chair of that sub-committee.

Continued on page 4

Linda Eppich
The Preservation Society
of Newport County



CURATORS' STANDING PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF AAM

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Already it's the final edition for 2007! Its been a great year for CurCom and we've had some terrific submissions to *Update*.

In this issue we cover preparations for the Annual Meeting in Denver, which promises to be a wonderful program. Trevor Jones provides a frank and engaging account of a dubious source and how it was uncovered, and Ron Potvin introduces an important web-based survey to determine the professional education and training interests of its regional audience of museum professionals currently working in the field.

We look forward to hearing from more of you in the new year: changes in your museum, new staff, new ideas, or reflections on our industry and its achievements and challenges.

Very best wishes for the festive season!

Deborah Tout-Smith

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News Flash

AAM staff have recommended to the Board of Trustees that CurCom be continued!

Thanks to the Board members who assisted in this important review.

The documentation will be placed in the CurCom Archives.

SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP

Update is the periodic newsletter distributed to members of CurCom. It is also available on-line at <http://www.curcom.org>.

CurCom (Curators' Committee) is a Standing Professional Committee (SPC) of the American Association of Museums. All SPC members must join the AAM. Dues for CurCom (\$20.00 / \$10.00 for students) are payable in addition to AAM dues.

Membership is obtained through:

Membership Department
American Association of Museums
1575 Eye St. N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Phone (202) 289 9132; fax (202) 289 6578;
email membership@aam-us.org.

Continued from page 1

According to the Guidelines of the Council of Standing Professional Committees (CurCom is a member), an SPC must be reviewed by the AAM Board of Directors every ten years. Until 2007 this requirement had not been implemented; Ed Com was the first and passed its review in May of this year. This November is CurCom's review by the Board, and the binder with all the information has gone in to the AAM office. It was difficult to assemble, but I am hopeful that all is in order. Needless to say, this was very important for CurCom, as the possible decision could be one of the following:

1. The SPC continues with commendations
2. The SPC continues with recommendations for improvement
3. The SPC is placed on provisional status
4. The SPC should be dissolved

I hope to see many of you in Denver next year! In the meantime, please contact any member of the Board with ideas, session proposals, problems, or comments.

Linda Eppich
The Preservation Society of Newport County

Entries Invited for Excellence in Exhibition Competition

Entries are currently being accepted for the 20th Annual Excellence in Exhibition Competition. The competition recognizes outstanding achievement in exhibition from all types of museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and non-commercial institutions offering exhibitions to the public. The exhibition must have opened to the public between November 30, 2005 and November 30, 2007. Institutions submitting entries must have one team member who is a member of AAM. The deadline for entries is January 4 2008 (postmark date). Winners will be announced at the AAM Annual Meeting in Denver in 2008, and will receive national recognition in *Museum News*. In addition, all entries will be displayed at the Marketplace of Ideas.

Entry materials are posted at www.curcom.org, www.n-a-m-e.org, and www.care-aam.org.

The Exhibition Competition is jointly sponsored by four standing professional committees of the AAM: CurCom, the National Association for Museum Exhibition (NAME), the Committee on Audience Research and Evaluation (CARE), and the Committee on Education (EdCom).

2008 CurCom Fellowship Award Announcement

The Curators' Committee is pleased to announce the availability of two fellowships for curators who have never attended an AAM Annual Meeting before and whose major job responsibilities are the care and interpretation of their museums' collections. The two \$1000 fellowships are intended to help defray the cost of attending the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO in 2008.

Application eligibility:

To qualify the applicant must never have attended an AAM Annual meeting.

To qualify the applicant's major (75%) job responsibility must be the care and interpretation of their institution's collection.

To apply, please send:

- a) cover letter expressing how participation in the AAM annual meeting would benefit the applicant and their institution, how professional development is important to the applicant's career and to furthering the mission of their institution, a brief description of how collections are significant to their work and an explanation of the museum's financial need for him/her to receive this fellowship;
- b) a letter of recommendation from the immediate supervisor, emphasizing his/her contribution to the profession; and
- c) your résumé.

Send originals, plus two sets of photocopies, to: James Burns, Curator of History, Tempe Historical Museum, 809 E. Soutehr Ave. Tempe, AZ 85282.

Due Date: postmarked on or before January 25 2008.

For further information contact James Burns at (480) 350 5110 or via email at James_burns@tempe.gov. Results will be announced in time for recipients to register for the conference before the early bird deadline.

Future AAM Annual Meetings

Denver, CO
April 27-May 1 2008

Philadelphia, PA
April 30-May 4 2009

Los Angeles, LA
May 23-27 2010

Museums Invited to Share Their Stories

CurCom Web Site Links

The CurCom web site includes links to other organizations or groups which may have information of interest to curators.

If your organization or group is interested in being added as a link, please contact us at info@curcom.org.

The Curator's Committee only posts links to not for profit institutions and groups, and provides no guarantees or warranties where these organizations are concerned.

The CurCom web site can be seen at <http://www.curcom.org/>

What would it look like if we could bring all of our best stories together? One story at a time, we could unify our voices and build a more complete vision of America's museums. Each of you has a story, and we invite you to share it with AAM's new Museums Made Here initiative. Tell us about your experiences and how they have affected your visitors and community.

Over the next year, we will highlight your stories on AAM's website and in *Museum News*, *Aviso* and other publications to spread the word of individual triumphs to museums nationwide. AAM also will share these anecdotes with legislators, funders and media across the country to underscore the value of museums to our communities. Here are some questions to keep in mind:

- What was the goal or problem that sparked your effort?
- What was your plan to address the situation?
- What was special or different about the process?
- Who were the stakeholders involved? Who led the effort? Who was your target group to influence?
- Did you achieve your planned outcome, or was the outcome different (but maybe better) than what was intended?
- What did you learn from the experience? What would you do differently?
- Would this work elsewhere?

Please email any related published articles to stories@aam-us.org and visit the Museums Made Here webpage at <http://aam-us.org/aboutmuseums/stories.cfm> to share your story now. We look forward to hearing from you.

New IRS Schedule M: a Minefield for Museums

For the first time since 1979, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is revising Form 990, the annual return tax-exempt organizations use to report information about their operations. The IRS released a draft of the redesigned form for public comment in June. The IRS solicited public comments through September and aims to have the form ready for the 2008 filing year (returns filed in 2009).

After a preliminary review, AAM is concerned about the addition of a new Schedule M form, which is devoted to institutions' reporting of non-cash contributions. What is unclear from Schedule M is how the IRS will expect museums to report donations of objects that are destined for a museum's collection. For most museums, these objects are not considered financial assets, and value is assigned only for insurance purposes. A longer discussion of this issue can be found on the AAM web site at <http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/headlines/0707-irs-schedule-m.cfm>. Comments on Form 990 are available at <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=173106,00.html>.

EXHIBITS, THE INTERNET AND 'THE GOOD WIFE'S GUIDE'

Trevor Jones

It's hardly news that the internet abounds with lies, half-truths and misinformation, but sometimes even a fraud can provide insight into museum visitor's perceptions of a topic. A few years ago I worked for months on an exhibit called 'Beyond the Cleavers: Life in the 1950s', which was designed to push beyond visitors' nostalgia for the 'perfect' decade and hopefully leave them with a more nuanced view of the period. The exhibit began with a major section on domestic ideals for American middle class women using the fictional June Cleaver as a model for the perfect wife and mother. As a result, I spent a lot of time studying scholarly articles, *Good Housekeeping* magazines, cookbooks, and other sources on the domestic life during the decade. It was therefore a pleasant surprise when one of the museum's interns brought me a copy of 'The Good Wife's Guide' from *Housekeeping Monthly*, dated 13 May 1955.

The 'Guide' consists of 18 bullet point recommendations, beginning with: 'Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready, on time for his return,' and concludes with: 'A good wife always knows her place.' In addition to the text, the article includes an image of a wife in her kitchen greeting her husband as he comes home from work. On the surface, the Guide is a succinct and powerful primary source on the expected roles for women in the 1950s and thus would be perfect for exhibit use. Under closer inspection, however, the Guide's veracity is questionable.

When I first read the Guide, it seemed a little too good to be true. I had never seen so many admonitions on proper domestic behavior in one place, although this type of advice was given in the 1950s. For example, the 1955 *Betty Crocker's New Picture Cookbook* advised that 'the thoughtful wife has a simple beverage (cold in summer, hot in winter) ready for her weary husband when he comes home at night.' Secondly, the Guide's origins were also suspicious. It was purportedly from a magazine called *Housekeeping Monthly*, and oddly listed a day (May 13) as well as month for the publication date. The 1950s domestic scene on the page also unusually credited 'Advertising Archives' along one side. The listing of the date as (13 May) rather than May 13, as well as some British spellings in the text, made me believe that the Guide originated in the United Kingdom rather than the United States. A quick check of the internet made it clear that this piece had been used everywhere from newspaper columns to joke of the day web sites since the late 1990s. Others had also

Continued on page 8

'...sometimes even a fraud can provide insight into museum visitor's perceptions of a topic.'

— Trevor Jones

2007 Annual Meeting: Statistics and Recordings

Are you wondering about the outcomes of the 2007 AAM Annual Meeting, or are you still wanting to know more about a session you missed?

The final tallies are in on the record number of museum professionals and advocates who attended the 2007 Annual Meeting. Attendees traveled to Chicago from 50 countries – including Puerto Rico, Canada, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, and Japan – as well as all 50 states and Washington, DC. The majority came from Illinois, followed by New York and California. More than 1,500 of the 6,435 participants were first-time attendees of an AAM Annual Meeting.

If you were unable to attend the meeting – or would like to have the extensive information that was discussed in Chicago at your fingertips – you can now order audio recordings or an online library of annual meeting sessions.

Refer to <http://www.netsymposium.com/index.php?select=association&data=92> for further information.

Continued from page 7

questioned its veracity and the excellent web-myth debunking site www.snopes.com listed it as an unproven (but probable) hoax.

The Guide was definitely suspicious, but I wanted to see if I could actually prove it was a forgery. I contacted colleagues in the reference department at the library at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. With the third largest academic library in the nation and an amazing reference staff, I was convinced they could learn more about the Guide. After a thorough search, however, they could find no evidence that a magazine called *Housekeeping Monthly* was ever published in either the United States or the United Kingdom. They also

Continued on page 9

Housekeeping Monthly 13 May 1955



The good wife's guide

- Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready, on time for his return. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal (especially his favourite dish) is part of the warm welcome needed.
- Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh-looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people!
- Be a little gay and a little more interesting for him. His boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it.
- Clear away the clutter. Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives.

Image courtesy Trevor Jones

helped me contact the Advertising Archives in England which was credited as the source of the image in 'The Good Wife's Guide.' The staff there informed me that the image had been posted on their website and came from a cover of a 1957 *John Bull* magazine. Although I could not determine who created the Guide, it seems fairly certain that it is indeed a fabricated document. Although it is possible that some of the advice once came from legitimate primary sources, it was clearly amalgamated into one piece and spread over the internet in the late 1990s.

What's more interesting than the forgery itself is how the Guide and the ideas it contains have resonated with the general public. My recent Google search turned up 27,200 hits referencing 'The Good Wife's Guide,' with reactions ranging from shocked outrage to nostalgia for more 'traditional' gender roles. The Guide has been forwarded in hundreds of emails, and I know many high school history teachers who have used it as a primary source in their classrooms. Although some have expressed suspicion about the Guide's origins, the document has resonance because it seems to reinforce what many Americans *want* to believe the 50s were like. For many writers, the Guide is evidence that women in the 1950s really were subservient, obedient, and dedicated to pleasing their husbands. For some this is positive because it shows how far women have come since the dark days of the 1950s, while others lament the loss of a mythical past full of single income families and spotless kitchens. Most writers who reference the Guide seem to agree that life was somehow 'simpler' and 'more innocent' in the 1950s and that the world today is much more complex. It is certainly difficult to challenge these myths about the 1950s, especially because they are based in fact.

The 1950s *were* a time of amazing overall economic prosperity in the United States, with rising incomes and a super abundance of available material goods. But this economic prosperity does not mean that gender roles were static. The number of working women rose throughout the decade, and by 1960 almost 60% of women in the workforce were married and not living the mythical 'Good Wife's Guide' life. Even if important differences in class, race, and geography are ignored, the picture of a doting housewife waiting for her husband to come home was not the reality for many Americans. In fact, historians have argued that domestic advice for women in the 1950s was primarily a reaction against already shifting gender roles, rather than a reflection of what American life was actually like. Ultimately, documents like 'The Good Wife's Guide' simplify the past and

Continued on page 10

Music Licensing for Museums

AAM has developed a fact sheet for music licensing for museums. It is a useful introduction to the complexities of, and solutions to, the use of music in museums, including ambient sound, multimedia, and live performances.

The sheet defines a music license, and explains why it is needed, considerations before obtaining a license, and when it is legal to perform music without a licence.

The fact sheet is available at http://www.aam-us.org/upload/Music_Licensing.pdf.

reinforce a mythic world that never really existed, but many people want to believe once did.

For my exhibit 'Beyond the Cleavers: Life in the 1950s' our visitors' preconceptions and nostalgia for a mythic past made interpreting the decade simultaneously easier and more challenging. Visitors of all ages entered the exhibit with strongly preconceived notions about the decade, and the themes of domesticity and prosperity explored in the gallery are familiar to them. Unfortunately, these preconceptions also made it difficult to move past nostalgia and challenge visitors to instead consider a more complex view of the past. The exhibit tried to strike a balance between the types of ideas presented in 'The Good Wife's Guide' that visitors expected to see, while simultaneously prompting them to consider a more complex version of the past. 'Beyond the *Cleavers*' attempted to accomplish this by juxtaposing the expected drive-in theater, jukebox, and classic TV commercials with an iron lung, nuclear evacuation plans, and information on abuse of prescription drugs and conformity. The flip side of the decade's economic prosperity was anxiety, and it was a powerful force during the 1950s. By juxtaposing the secure with the discomfiting, my hope was that the exhibit would provide visitors with a chance to be nostalgic, but also prompt a more complex understanding of the decade.

Did it work? Unfortunately, not as well as I had hoped. My museum's visitor observation surveys and patron interviews indicate that many visitors felt the message of the exhibit was primarily nostalgic. Although visitors were enthusiastic about the exhibit and stayed an average of 10½ minutes in a 2,200 square foot gallery, the primary take-home message was that the 1950s were a simpler time. Interviews indicated that most visitors already believed in a 'Good Wife's Guide' view of the 1950s when they entered the exhibit, and what they saw failed to substantially alter their preconceptions. Clearly, my attempt to balance what visitors expected to see with a more nuanced version of the past failed. Looking back on it now, I think I was too subtle. I should have done more to push the more complex aspects of the decade and deemphasized the nostalgic aspects of the 1950s. My hope was that visitors would be inspired to question their assumptions about the decade, but 'The Good Wife's Guide' version of the past is clearly more powerful than I thought. For me this experience is a reminder that I need to do a better job understanding my audience's preconceptions during the exhibit planning process, and also where these ideas come from!

First National Standard on Facilities and Risk Management Approved

The AAM Board of Directors approved the first national standard on facilities and risk management in museums at its July 27 meeting in Seattle. 'AAM Standards for US Museums Regarding Facilities and Risk Management' outlines museums' basic responsibilities in caring for people, collections, buildings and grounds – an important addition to the other AAM Standards and Best Practices for US Museums given the devastation of museums on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina.

The new standard can help museums assess their performance against national expectations for facilities and risk management, identify areas for improvement and locate resources to support their needs for planning and implementing emergency preparedness.

– Elizabeth Merritt,
AAM web site

Denver Annual Meeting Theme

Leadership: An Open Mic for New Ideas

Leadership is the issue of the day. From national politics to our roles within our own families, the question of who leads and how is crucially important.

But how do we lead better, smarter, more creatively? How do we inspire and transform? How do we do it differently? We want to examine new models for leadership and new thinking on how to lead at every level in a museum. We are looking for inspired approaches, breakthrough concepts, a lively, let-your-hair-down debate on what it means to lead. A little humor, a touch of irreverence, a lot of honesty would all be welcome.

What are the traits and core competencies of an ideal leader? If leadership is critical at all levels, how do we encourage it from the bottom up, inside out, and across organizations? How are emerging leaders nurtured and valued? Is there a whole new role for the CEO in the future? How can leadership become more diverse? What can we learn from the models used by other cultures? How should leaders respond to rapid changes in society, technology, the environment?

From all perspectives within these unique constructions we call museums, can we shine a new light on what it means to lead? After all, museums preserve, collect, display, interpret, and educate for the public good. We share close relationships with multiple communities and our many publics, with schools and universities, with local, regional and federal governments, with the media, the business community, and the philanthropic community. We serve a clientele from newborns to centenarians. Now that's a scenario that calls for some innovative leadership!

For the 2008 Annual Meeting in Denver, we invite our members and participants to investigate the issue of leadership – in our institutions, in our communities, and in the individuals working in every discipline within the museum – but to do so by encouraging innovative approaches to leadership.

Share your stories, your experiences, your wisdom with one another in Denver and beyond. Help us explore what changes are needed to discover new directions for our museums – and perhaps even for the world.

AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™ Registration Deadlines

Early Bird Registration
Deadline: February 1 2008

Advanced Registration
Deadline: March 21, 2008

Online Discount: Register online now and save \$10. You not only help AAM, but you help save a tree!

MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION: A WEB-BASED SURVEY

Ron M. Potvin

In the summer of 2007, the John Nicholas Brown Center at Brown University undertook a survey to determine the professional education and training interests of its regional audience of museum professionals currently working in the field. In addition to providing informative and sometimes unexpected insights into the nature and interests of this constituency, as well as broader trends in the museum field, the results of the Center's survey also suggest a variety of approaches for universities and professional associations to provide continuing training and education to their audiences of museum and cultural agency professionals.

It is my hope that other universities and professional organizations that organize museum professional training conduct similar assessments of their own constituencies, and that the John Nicholas Brown Center's survey may serve as a template to combine and compare results from these assessments. In this way, we can all better serve the professional education needs of our audiences and the museum field as a whole, while fostering collaboration between the institutions that provide these services.

For a discussion of the results and methodology of the survey, or to take the John Nicholas Brown Center Museum Professional Training and Education survey, go to <http://www.brown.edu/Research/JNBC/Working.htm>.

NEW WEB EXCLUSIVES ON AAM SITE

Two new features have been added to AAM's Web Exclusives section.

Digital Museum Excerpt. Available only on the AAM website is an excerpt from the forthcoming book *The Digital Museum: a Think Guide*. The book's 25 authors explore the rapidly changing landscape of technology in museums, delving into topics such as the use of handheld devices, websites, digital games, open source technology, and real-time learning. The excerpt featured as a web exclusive, 'Can Museums Allow Online Users to Become Participants?' by Matthew MacArthur, examines whether and how museums should use Web 2.0 tools to interact with their audiences.

Audio Clip: Interview with Phyllis Richman. For her *Museum News* articles on destination dining in museums, Managing Editor Susan Breitkopf sat down with former *Washington Post* food critic Phyllis Richman at the International Spy Museum's Zola restaurant. Over tuna tartar and a grilled lamb sandwich, Richman revealed her most memorable museum dining experiences. This is the second in AAM's new series of audio clips, the first of which featured an interview with President Ford W. Bell.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR NAMED NEW AAAM PRESIDENT

Hampton University Museum Director Vernon S. Courtney was elected president of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) at the Association's annual conference, which took place August 29-September 1 2007.

Courtney has a long history with African American museums and artwork. He has been a member of AAAM since 1987 and was formerly director of the National African American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, OH. He became the director of the Hampton University Museum in April.

Courtney said he plans to draw on that experience to support museums in the United States and abroad, focusing on professionals who protect, preserve and interpret African and African American art, history, and culture.

'I hope over the next two years to significantly increase membership in the organization,' he said. 'I also want to strengthen professional services provided by the organization to its members and member museums.'

Further information on AAAM is available at <http://www.blackmuseums.org/>.

– *Aviso*



CEOs AND GOVERNANCE SEMINAR: BUILD A BETTER BOARD

Hone your leadership skills, gain the tools and knowledge you need to develop a high-functioning board, and build a network of colleagues interested in sharing solutions and experience as museum directors.

Conducted by Maureen K. Robinson, an authority on nonprofit leadership and author of *Nonprofit Boards That Work*, the seminar is highly recommended for CEOs and directors with less than seven years in the position.

The seminar is being held on February 1-2 2008 in Santa Fe, NM. Further information on the seminar is available at <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/ceos-and-governance-seminar.cfm>

Conferences, Meetings and Workshops

'Building the Jewish Museum'
Council of American Jewish
Museums Conference
Chicago, IL
January 27-29 2008
http://www2.jewishculture.org/cultural_services/museums/cajm/conference

This year's CAJM conference focuses on new, bold and experimental directions in the profession. Set against Chicago's dramatic skyline – defined by stunning architecture, thriving cultural institutions, and a vibrant downtown culture – the conference is sure to spark new thinking about our profession and its growth in the cultural landscape.

The theme reflects the dynamic physical and intellectual growth of our profession. Jewish museums today represent a category of museums that is growing at quick pace – in size, numbers, audience, purpose, and mission. Now is the time to pose key questions about our role in society and our greatest ambitions. Why do we exist in the first place? What role do we play in society? Who is our audience? For whom do we build, and why? How will our functions change over time? How will we have even greater influence?

'Seeds of Change: CAM in the Heart of California'
2008 California Association of
Museums Conference
Fresno, CA
February 25-27 2008
http://www.calmuseums.org/conferences_and_workshops/2008oerview.html

California is in the midst of significant change, with new faces, exciting technology, and global issues challenging our organizations. Join us as we face these issues head on and seek to sow the seeds of change to create a brighter future for California's museums and their communities. This conference will bring together a diverse group of museum professionals from across California for a stimulating and enjoyable exchange of ideas, perspectives and resources.

'New Approaches to the Museum's Engagement with the Local Community'
Irish Museums Association Annual
Conference
Wexford, Ireland
February 29-March 2 2008
<http://www.irishmuseums.org/events.html#1>

In 2008 the Annual Conference aims to look at the range of opportunities available for all types of museums: national, regional, local, and voluntary. You will learn how fostering and cultivating local partnerships can help raise your profile, develop your community base, gain new friends for the museum, and improve your local history knowledge.

The Museum's engagement with the local community is often seen as a low priority or regarded as appropriate only for the smallest institutions. Speakers will challenge these perceptions and show you how, with research, imagination, flair, and persistence, every museum can develop a significant local community presence.

'New Museum, New Museology'
Savannah College of Art and Design
2nd biennial Art History Symposium
Savannah, GA
April 3-5 2008
<http://www.scad.edu/art-history/symposium.cfm>

During the three days of the symposium a series of concurrent sessions and events will be presented, exploring the latest trends in museum studies, including a Friday evening keynote lecture by artist Fred Wilson.

Canadian Museums Association Conference
Victoria, BC, Canada
April 8-12 2008
http://www.museums.ca/en/conferences/annual_cma_conference/

How do you harness tomorrow's opportunities and ensure that you and your institution are adding value to your visitor experiences

and to your community? By securing practical information, knowledge, cost effective solutions, and networking at the CMA's 2008 annual conference. The CMA's 61st conference challenges you to think far beyond the four walls of your institutions, to think beyond the physical spaces of your museums to reach new and non-traditional audiences.

'Public Histories of Union and Disunion'
National Council on Public History
Annual Meeting
Louisville, KY
April 10-13 2008
<http://www.ncph.org/Conferences/2008/tabid/301/Default.aspx#schedule>

This annual meeting will explore the role(s) public history has played in North American civic life, and particularly ways in which public history has been harnessed to foster unity, provoke division, or make sense of controversy. Broad topics within this theme may include: deployments of history in political arenas; assessments of 'civic engagement' initiatives; the challenges inherent in the interpretation of sites and events associated with wounds that divide the public; and the consequences when competing.

'A Purposeful Discourse: Inter-disciplinarity and the Empowerment of the University Museum'
Boulder, CO
April 26 2008
<http://www.acumg.org/conference08.html>

The university museum can remain an indispensable component of the university's mission and assert its role in the educational experience through interdisciplinary collaboration with diverse academic disciplines. This collaborative dialogue will broaden and deepen the academic experience for university students, unveil new meanings while respecting the integrity of the disciplines involved, and reaffirm the traditional expectations of the museum by the university administration and faculty.

'Leadership: An Open Mic for New Ideas'

Denver, CO

April 27-May 1 2008

<http://www.aam-us.org/am08/index.cfm>

Leadership is the issue of the day. From national politics to our roles within our own families, the question of who leads and how is crucially important.

Further details are available on page 11 of this issue of *Update*.

'Loyalty in Living History'

Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums Annual Conference

Ottawa, ON, Canada

June 22-26 2008

http://www.alhfam.org/index.php?cat_id=233

This theme engages all of us. Historically, loyalty was a quality often sought out by political, religious and military leaders. How did they understand loyalty and its importance? What was the price of this loyalty? What was the role and impact of the so-called 'Loyalists' within North America? As living history, farm and agricultural museums, have we remained loyal to the aims of our founders? To what fundamental ideas were they loyal? Has our sense of purpose changed or evolved? How do we engender visitor loyalty? What strategies are or could be used?

'Reflect, Reinvest, Revitalize! Preserving the African American Experience'

Association of African American Museums Annual Conference

Chicago, IL

August 27-30 2008

http://www.blackmuseums.org/prodev/2008_ataglance.htm

This conference is being hosted by the DuSable Museum. Further will be available on their web site shortly.

'Discovering the Power of Transformation'

AASLH Annual Meeting

Rochester, NY

September 9-12 2008

<http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm>

How many times in recent years have persons in public history talked about the constant bombardment of new challenges: changing demographics, the technology explosion, the tightening of financial and human resources, more competition in all shapes and sizes, and even our own 'mission creep?' The challenges are real and the very timely theme of 2007 reminds us that Relevance = The Bottom Line. With a sharp eye on the issue of relevance, the 2008 AASLH Annual Meeting will focus on the power of transformation.

In order to harness this transformative power, many of us and the institutions we serve need to revisit our approach to what we do. We must transform the nature of our profession to ensure that we are sustainable and relevant.

Museums Association (UK) Annual Conference and Exhibition

Liverpool, UK

October 6-8 2008

http://www.museumsassociation.org/conference&_IXMENU=conference_and_exhibition

The MA's annual conference and exhibition is the largest museum and gallery event in the UK, with over 1,300 museum and gallery professionals coming together to discuss the key issues affecting the sector. Watch our web site for further details.

'City Museums and the Future of the City'

International Committee For The Collections And Activities Of Museums of Cities (CAMOC) Conference

Seoul, Korea

6-8 October 2008

camoc.icom.museum

The fourth CAMOC conference will be about the contribution of city museums to the city's future and it will explore a variety of topics within this theme through formal presentations, panel discussions and workshops.

CAMOC is now calling for papers - see their web site for further details.

'Meeting in the Middle'

Mountain-Plains Museums

Association and Association of Midwest Museums 2008 Annual Conference

Kansas City, MO

October 20-24 2008

'Meeting in the Middle' reflects the special nature of this year's conference, as a joint meeting with the Association of Midwest Museums to be hosted by the dynamic destination of Kansas City, Missouri. The theme speaks to the always-challenging goal of meshing theory with practice, working collaboratively, and speaking across different disciplines. The Conference will highlight collaboration, best practices, and planning for your museum's future.

Session proposals relating to any of these themes are warmly welcomed, along with proposals relating to other leadership, collection, programming, and/or scholarly museum issues that address finding a good balance between innovation and tradition, theory and practice.

The deadline for proposals is January 18 2008

'History without Boundaries'

2009 Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting

Seattle, WA

March 26-29 2009

<http://www.oah.org/meetings/2009/call.html>

The OAH program committee seeks an eclectic annual meeting that will highlight the use of history in research, education, the media, and public presentations. We seek proposals reflecting the broad chronological and subject diversity of American history, including race, gender, disabilities, political, diplomatic, and military studies, by those teaching at universities, community colleges, and secondary schools, public historians, and independent scholars. Meeting on the West coast, the program should feature the history of the West and borderlands, rural life, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans, and issues of immigration and environmental policy.

The deadline for proposals is February 15 2008.

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AMERICAN  ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

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UPDATE

