

### Greetings from your Chairperson

Your CurCom Board continues to be busy with activities related to the annual meeting and other projects. It is a pleasure to announce that the **Curators Code of Ethics is now accessible on the CurCom website**. We hope that you use it and find it to be helpful. See page 4 of this issue of *Update* for further information.

A **CurCom member survey** was recently sent to you by the Membership Committee, led by Margaretta Frederick (Delaware Art Museum, DE). Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey if you have not already done so. Your needs will be more effectively served by providing feedback. Please feel free to contact Margaretta directly with additional comments at [MFrederick@delart.org](mailto:MFrederick@delart.org).

Plans for the 2010 AAM meeting are well underway. The first round of the Program meetings took place in August. CurCom submitted a small number sessions that are of high quality, and co-sponsored more than a dozen proposed by other Standing Professional Committees. The second round of session reviews has already begun.

Two CurCom Fellowships are again being offered to attend the annual AAM meeting. One is underwritten by Crystalizations Systems, Inc., their third year of support. Please also review the information for the second annual Global Curator exchange with Australia. This is unique networking opportunity that is well worth considering.

Thanks to the efforts of Marshall Duell (Old Courthouse Museum, CA), Hollyhock House is the site for the May 23 reception being tri-hosted by CurCom, SMAC and COMPT. Hollyhock House and the gardens were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Aline Barnsdall in 1921. CurCom's portion is being underwritten by Delta Designs Ltd, another third year underwriter. We are looking forward to working with our colleagues in this new arrangement.

We appreciate suggestions and questions to improve how CurCom can serve you.

Ellen Endslow  
CurCom Chairperson



November 2009

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## CURATORS' STANDING PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF AAM

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## CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to all our contributors and writers for this issue of *Update*.

Beth Alberty	Brooklyn Children's Museum
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Marshall Duell	Old Courthouse Museum
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Karin Falk and Simone Ellin	Jewish Museum of Maryland
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John Russick	Chicago History Museum

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## From the Editor

In this issue we have several wonderful opportunities for curators: two fellowships to attend conferences in the US and beyond, and an invitation to submit to the Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing competition. Members can keep up-to-date with information on web networking, the new Code of Ethics and the AAM's latest bench-marking tool for the profession.

Also in this issue, I begin our series exploring what encourages us to enter this challenging and rewarding profession, and how our dreams and preconceptions are realized or challenged. I have offered my own story to get the ball rolling, but hope to hear from many of you for future issues. Short or longer reflective contributions are welcome, as are photographs.

The deadline for the next issue is **February 15**. Please email your contributions through to me as usual. I look forward to hearing from you!

Deborah Tout-Smith  
Museum Victoria, Australia  
[dtoutsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:dtoutsmith@hotmail.com)

### Future AAM Annual Meetings

Los Angeles, LA  
May 23-27 2010

Houston, TX  
May 22-26 2011

Minneapolis/St Paul,  
MN  
April 29-May 3 2012

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## 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](mailto:membership@aam-us.org)

# A Code of Ethics for Curators

Of particular note from this year's CurCom business meeting was the approval of the Curators' Code of Ethics. The Code is published on the CurCom web site at <http://www.curcom.org/ethics.php>.

As institutional leaders who make important decisions about policy and content, curators often wrestle with complex ethical questions. The CurCom Code of Ethics is meant to provide guidance and inspiration to working curators who make crucial choices about such controversial issues as acquisitions and deaccessioning, research, interpretation, access, and conflicts of interest. In 2009, after an extensive process of feedback and peer review, the CurCom board approved a revised Code of Ethics that was written by a CurCom-appointed workgroup. This new Code of Ethics reflects the changing nature of the curatorial profession, and includes sections on curatorial values and responsibilities, conflicts of interest, and the many roles that curators play in contemporary museums.

CurCom also has established a Standing Committee on Ethics, with the responsibility to serve as a general resource for information, discussion, and advice on ethical issues. To contact this committee, send an email to the committee chair at [bpeterson@michenerartmuseum.org](mailto:bpeterson@michenerartmuseum.org).

The members of the CurCom Standing Committee on Ethics are: Chair **Brian H. Peterson**, James A. Michener Art Museum; **James Burns**, Tempe Historical Museum and Vice-Chair, CurCom; **Ellen Endslow**, Chester County Historical Society and Chair, CurCom; **Linda Eppich**, Preservation Society of Newport County and Immediate Past Chair, CurCom; **John Mayer**, Maine Historical Society; **Janet Marstine**, Department of Art, Music and Design and Institute of Museum Ethics, Seton Hall University; and **John Russick**, Chicago History Museum.

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## Information Sought: Fabrics Workshops

Curators: many 'antique' woven and printed fabrics were used in the late-19th and early-20th centuries for domestic furnishing purposes. What kind of hands-on workshop would benefit your institution's cataloguing and interpretation of these collection objects? Identifying old versus reproduction fabrics? European versus American fabrics?

Please send feedback to Sara Jatcko or Nicole Belolan, Cataloguing Assistants for the IMLS Textile Furnishing Project at the Winterthur Museum: [sjatck@winterthur.org](mailto:sjatck@winterthur.org) or [nbelol@winterthur.org](mailto:nbelol@winterthur.org).

# Museum Learning and Networking on the Web

As we increasingly use digital media in our museum work, the web has become a vital tool for communication, audience extension and professional development.

Webinar ('web seminar') opportunities, as well as web casts and web conferences, are now being embraced by AAM. Eight web events so far are planned as part of AAM's 2010 professional development calendar (see next column).

They will appeal to a broad range of interests, and suit museum professionals across a breadth of locations and budgets. Importantly, they are very cost-effective!

Early in August, the SPC meeting discussed new professional development webinar opportunities. Under development for over a year, many SPC members have contributed. Greg Stevens, the AAM staff member with responsibility for this area, hopes that SPCs can become involved to help build their own committee memberships and to enhance their networking capacity. SPCs are encouraged to work with Greg to advertise and convene. A number of options are available to convenors. For example, an SPC board member could convene at his/her institution. Each attendee could pay a nominal fee unless they are member of that SPC; or everyone could be charged, with a portion of the money going to the SPC.

AAM's 2010 professional development calendar on the web is detailed in the next column.

## WEBINARS

**Disaster Preparedness**  
May 2010

**2010 Museum Essentials Webinar Series:**

**Collections Webinar**  
September 2010

**Museum/School Partnerships**  
September 2010

**Understanding the Three Dimensions of Your Board**  
October 20 2010

## WEBCAST LECTURES

**Center for the Future of Museums**  
January 27 2010

## WEB CONFERENCES

**Executive Suite: Planning for Leadership Transition**  
*3-part web conference, February 2010*

**Straight Talk 2010: Communicating with Your Board, Your Staff, Your Teams**  
*3-part web conference, March 2010*

**Technology, Education and Interpretation Online Conference**  
*2-day web conference, June 2010*

For further information on the AAM web learning programs, visit <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/professionaleducationcalendar.cfm>.

*With thanks to Ellen Endslow*

# Getting Started in the Museum Profession

Deborah Tout-Smith

Every one of us has a unique story to tell about getting started in the museum profession. Although my first job was in Australia, my real start happened back in the mid 1960s, in Fort Worth, Texas.

As a young child, I lived for nearly three years in Fort Worth with my family. My father was posted there by the Royal Australian Air Force. Our family made an effort to see as much of the US as possible during our stay.

One very special place we visited was the Fort Worth Children's Museum. I was absolutely enchanted by its displays. For a young child, though, it had an unintended source of allure: a long winding ramp to an upper level, from which small children were banned (!). My yearning to go up there was intensified by vivid young imaginings, and the delights and wonders it held knew no bounds. Every other museum my family visited became an insight into what might be up there: roaming dinosaurs, glowing minerals, glittering jewels...

Over the years I developed a passion for history, and at university I studied history, as well as prehistoric archaeology and sociology. I began to volunteer as a curator at Museum Victoria in 1988. I was a dogged volunteer, seeing my time as an apprenticeship, and I diligently volunteered two days per week for several years. At the same time I studied for a Master of Arts in Public History. I found I was equally interested in curation and collection management/registration, and over the years have found it tremendously helpful to have skills in all of these disciplines, even though I have mostly practiced as a curator.

Short-term contracts at Museum Victoria began to come my way, giving me enough experience to successfully apply for a permanent job as a curator at the Western Australian Museum. After several years in that position, my husband was offered work at Ohio State University, and we began nearly four years of living in the US and Canada. During that time, I began to edit *Update*.

Working internationally was a wonderful experience, and I strongly urge you to consider it. It was challenging obtaining work visas, and each time we moved I began as a volunteer, meeting colleagues and getting to know the system, until I was able to legally take paid work. Having a partner who had a working visa and was able to support me was critical—as was being able to work across a range of museum disciplines.

I returned to Australia at the end of 2001 and, after undertaking more contract work, was appointed to a permanent position at Museum Victoria, where I had begun as a volunteer all those years ago. In some ways, you never leave a collection that you have contributed to, and always remember its treasures.

One of the most important things for my career has been professional mentoring. Having colleagues who were able to introduce me to the museum world and key people within it has been of enormous benefit. In turn, I try to repay the debt by providing the same support to people entering the profession. It is the least I can do as thanks for the opportunity to work in such a wonderful field.

# CurCom Offers Fellowships to Attend AAM Annual Meeting

The Curators' Committee offers financial support to curators in the form of fellowships and an exchange program. Two fellowships are awarded each year to attend the annual American Association of Museums Annual Meeting.

## Applicants

Two recipients will be awarded \$1,000 each. These two \$1,000 fellowships are intended to help defray the cost of attending the May, 2010 AAM Annual Meeting, held next year in Los Angeles, CA. Please note that fellowship winners will be expected to attend the CurCom business luncheon at the Annual Meeting, where they will be recognized.

## Application eligibility:

An applicant must never have attended an AAM Annual meeting.

An applicant's major job responsibility (at least 75% of their regular duties) must be the care and interpretation of their institution's collection.

For further information visit [www.curcom.org](http://www.curcom.org) or contact Andrew Grilz at (978) 210 9045 or via email at [curcomfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:curcomfellowship@gmail.com).

## To apply, please send:

- A) A cover letter expressing:
- How your participation in the AAM annual meeting would benefit the applicant and their institution
  - How your 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 your work; and
  - An explanation of your institution'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
- C) An up-to-date résumé
- D) An explanation of your institution's organizational chart, listing appropriate job titles and hierarchy

All materials must be submitted together. Send originals, plus **two sets of photocopies** to:

Andrew Grilz  
CurCom Fellowship  
21 Nursery St.  
Salem, MA 01970

**Applications must be postmarked on or before January 15 2009.**

Please note: all applicants who meet the application deadline will receive the conference 'Early Bird' registration rate if they choose to attend, regardless whether or not they are awarded one of the fellowships.

# Global Curator Fellowship Program

The Historians' National Network of Museums Australia and Curators' Committee of the American Association of Museums are pleased to announce the launch of the 2010 Global Curator Exchange Fellowship Program.

This program is open to one curator from Australia and one from the United States. Each will be awarded a stipend to attend the other's national conference. The conferences are the largest national gathering of museum professionals and host an array of professional workshops, sessions and activities.

Following reassessment of each leg of the program, the fellowship amount has been adjusted for equitability. Each curator will now receive the equivalent of **US\$2200** (depending on exchange rates) to help defray the cost of attending the conference in the other country.

The American Association of Museums Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, 23-27 May, 2010; the Museums Australia conference will be held in Melbourne, September 28–October 2 2010.

Receipients are encouraged to also attend their own conferences, but are not required to do so.

**Closing date: 30 January 2009**

For further information and details of eligibility, please contact Deborah Tout-Smith, Museum Victoria, Australia, at [dtoutsm@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:dtoutsm@museum.vic.gov.au); ph +61 3 8341 7386, or Valarie J. Kinkade, Museum and Collector Resource, [kinval@aol.com](mailto:kinval@aol.com). Please put 'Global Curator' in the subject line.

*The 2010 Global Curator program is generously funded by CurCom, the Museum Historians' NN of Museums Australia and ICOM Australia.*

## Call for Entries: 2010 Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition

Excellent exhibition labels are clear, concise, and captivating. This combination is not easily achieved, and the writers and editors who craft the best label copy often go unrecognized. This initiative is designed to showcase examples of great label writing, identify innovative approaches, highlight best practices, and help us learn from one another.

We cannot achieve these goals without a strong pool of entries. Please submit examples of great label writing and encourage your colleagues to participate. **Entries are due by December 7 2009.** For submission guidelines and more information, visit [www.curcom.org/label\\_comp.php](http://www.curcom.org/label_comp.php)

*Sponsored by CurCom in cooperation with EdCom and NAME*

# WMA CURATORS (WESTERN CURATORS) REPORT

COMPILED BY MARSHALL DUELL · OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

The 2009 **Western Museum Association** annual meeting convened in San Diego from October 26 to 29. This year's meeting theme was 'A Rising Tide: Sustainable Practices, Green and Beyond.' Keynote speaker Bob Welch was well received.

**Museums Alaska**, the statewide museum organization, held its 2009 conference in conjunction with the Alaska Historical Society from September 16 to 19. The theme of the conference, which was held in the town of Unalaska, was 'Nature, History, Culture – Museums.'

Several **museums in Alaska** have hosted the SITES exhibit 'New Harmonies: A Celebration of American Roots Music' through the Museum on Main Street program. A television station in Wasilla produced a blog video for the Dorothy G. Page Museum.

The **Washington State Historical Society** hosts the exhibition 'Marking Time: Voyage to Vietnam,' which features graffitied bed canvases from the USNS *General Nelson Walker* recovered by the Vietnam Graffiti Project. The exhibit runs until December 13.

The **Monterey Bay Aquarium** observed its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 20 and celebrated the more than 46 million visitors to the facility since opening. Monterey Bay Aquarium has had more good news to celebrate this year. It received a three-year, \$772,000 grant from Nokia for expansion of its environmental education program.

The **Utah Museums Association** held their annual conference in the town of Green River from October 21 to 23.

## Museum Benchmarking Tool Published

The most comprehensive research on the state of US museums has been published by AAM Press, the publishing arm of the American Association of Museums. *Museum Financial Information 2009* is researched, compiled, and published every three years, based on a representative sample of American museums of all types and sizes – from the largest art museums and zoos to the smallest historic homes, from natural history institutions and science centers to children's museums and public gardens.

Museums find this survey to be an invaluable benchmarking tool, enabling leadership to gauge how its institution stacks up against other museums across the country. But this work has also proven useful to research organizations, universities, economists, elected officials and public-policy-makers, the funding community, and the media. With statistical analysis segmented by museum discipline and budget size, among others, it has also proven valuable to strategic planners and forecasters both in and out of the nonprofit realm.

Museum Financial Information 2009 sells for \$44.95 for AAM members and \$74.95 for non-members. For details on ordering this or the many other publications from The AAM Press, visit the website at [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

# MAAM CURATORS (MID-ATLANTIC CURATORS) REPORT

COMPILED BY NICOLE BELOLAN · WINTERTHUR MUSEUM

## News from Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art

Sarah Johnson

The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art (JMMTA) has completed a reCAP (updating its Conservation Assessment Program report) – funded through the IMLS’s Heritage Preservation program.

The building assessor was Michael C. Henry of Watson & Associates and the collections assessor was Ann Shaftel, FAIC, FIIC, of Tsondru Conservation. The survey was conducted in March and the reports were received in June. Heritage



Preservation’s President, Lawrence L. Reger, praised the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art for ‘making the vital work of caring for collections and sites a priority at their institution and helping insure that they are available to present and future generations.’

The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art joins the 2,500 museums that have participated in CAP since the program began in 1990. CAP assists museums by providing funds for professional conservation and preservation specialists to identify the conservation needs of

their collections and historic buildings and recommend ways to correctly improve collections and building conditions.

Additionally, the JMMTA received recognition as a site significant to American History: on April 14 2009 it received a listing on the New York State Register of Historic Places and on May 29 2009 it received a National Register of Historic Places designation.

‘The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art is a distinctive part of New York’s rich heritage,’ said Carol Ash, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. ‘I’m sure the designation as a historic place will help the museum to preserve and care for this remarkable example of our state’s history and culture.’



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The Museum was founded in 1945 by pioneering American woman Jacques Marchais (1887-1948), an important collector and respected expert on Tibetan art, who contributed greatly to the growing interest in Asian art, philosophy, and spirituality in the United States. The Museum represents Marchais' vision to provide a peaceful retreat where the public could study the art and culture of Tibet. She designed the Museum's unique complex of buildings and gardens to resemble a Tibetan mountain monastery.



These buildings represent the first Himalayan style architecture to be built in the United States, and it was the first museum devoted solely to Tibetan art in the world.

Photographs copyright Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art

Photographers: 1. Rachael Hintz. 2. Sarah Johnson. 3. Jacques Marchais

## News from the Jewish Museum of Maryland

Karin Falk / Simone Ellin

In preparation for the development of a new exhibition, *Chosen Food: Cuisine, Culture, and American Jewish Identity*, scheduled to open in Fall 2011, the Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM) has announced a major collecting initiative. Through recorded conversations, historical and contemporary documents, and the incredibly rich material culture of foodways, the exhibition will demonstrate how American Jews use food as an essential mode of cultural communication. In addition to the exhibition, the Museum will produce a related catalog, and website, also scheduled for completion in 2011.

JMM curator Karen Falk is seeking food-related photographs, videos, and — most of all — opinions and experiences that can be used in the making of *Chosen Food: Cuisine, Culture, and American Jewish Identity*.

**Those who wish to contribute to the content of the exhibition can participate** by visiting

[www.jewishmuseummd.org](http://www.jewishmuseummd.org) and taking the Chosen Food poll. Contributors may also email Falk at

[kfalk@jewishmuseummd.org](mailto:kfalk@jewishmuseummd.org)

with comments and stories. A related photo contest, in the planning stages, will launch on Flickr this winter.

Falk is also particularly interested to know if your institution holds collection objects related to Jewish food — including containers/packaging and cooking implements from the 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century that show how everyone ate/cooked/stored food (since Jews had the same technologies and available ingredients as everyone else).

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Falk is interested in reactions to the following questions and topics:

- How does your family interact around the dinner table — on a daily basis, or at those extended-family holiday dinners?
- How did immigration to America change the way you eat?
- What Jewish recipes do you cook that are characteristic of your region of the country?
- What food rules do you follow in your kitchen or dining room — kosher, not kosher, and in-between? An example: no sliced ham on the matzah during Passover — but a ham sandwich on bread any other time of the year is fine.
- Tell us about your nightmares and triumphs in arranging a catered event for the family or for the community.

'The Jewish Museum of Maryland began this project,' explains Falk, 'when our curators noticed that food was among our most animated topics of conversation, at the office and among our friends. Everyone, it seems, has something to say about Jewish food.' Falk believes that the reasons for this are multi-layered, and complex. 'The choices we make when cooking and eating go deeper than personal preference,' Falk asserts. 'They express our deeply held religious, ethical, and cultural values, as well as reflect changing social mores.'

The exhibition will take on a variety of concerns. In seven sections, *Chosen Food* will explore: the unexpected variety of foods that can be identified as Jewish; the ways American Jews modulate tradition in their kosher and non-kosher kitchens; what happens when a family recipe is brought to America; how identities are forged around the dinner table; delis and Chinese food and beyond; the important role of the caterer as 'translator' of 'American' into 'Jewish'

food, and back again; how Jewish thought influences and reflects American eating habits; and much more.

*Chosen Food* will travel, beginning in fall 2012. Tentative sites include the Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta, and the Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland. Additional venues are being sought.

## News from Brooklyn Children's Museum

Beth Alberty

Brooklyn Children's Museum re-opened in September 2009 in an expanded building with all new exhibits. While all of the exhibits display objects, often in conjunction with activities, the exhibit 'Collections Central' is specifically about objects and collections and therefore may be of particular interest to curators and others involved in interpreting objects for children. The exhibit is intended for visitors age eight and older and their families, but has activities that absorb younger children as well.

Themed exhibit cases and a simulated 'cabinet of wonders' surround and define the space. The exhibits include African Masks, Lunch Boxes, Plants (and objects with plant motifs), Antiquities, and Green. The 'cabinet of wonders' includes the museum's elephant skeleton as well as other specimens and artifacts, and a desk with a handwritten register, microscope, and other accessories of a curious collector. The imaginary collector's desk is paired outside the glass with a visitor's desk holding a computer with the museum's collection website ([www.brooklynkids.org/emuseum](http://www.brooklynkids.org/emuseum)), a 'junior collector' worksheet, and material for writing labels to

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accompany the Make Your Own Exhibit activity set into the wall of the 'cabinet of wonders.'

Activities highlight one or more of the following 'keyword' themes of the gallery's title: *Collections Central: Look, Imagine, Make, Know*. Close looking at objects is encouraged through drawing activities, matching detail images with objects, assembling image puzzles, and identifying objects by touch.

Another group of activities focuses on the process of making objects. For example, visitors can string beads in patterns, design decorative motifs using pattern tiles, and build structures with blocks. A computer showing craftspeople carving, potting, weaving, and metal casting, among other processes, is in progress.

Visitors' imaginations are piqued by a boat built around one of the museum's sculptured figureheads and by a cartooning activity, as well as by the drawing and building activities, and a display and interactive computer devoted to the composite god Ganesh.

Learning about objects is supported by

resources such as the website, books, a map, and articles about objects in the news and conservation. A broken plate puzzle sheds light on a display of broken and repaired objects. Visitors peeking through keyholes see the same object, a small statue of Krishna, in different settings that bring out some unexpected aspects of the statue, illustrating how an object can 'change' while remaining itself.

Objects related to each activity are displayed right in front of the visitor workspace. There is a place for visitors to post their drawings, if they do not take them away, and judging by the changing display, many visitors take a close look at the objects. Some of their drawings are also posted with the corresponding object record on the collections website.

The gallery has proven to be popular with children and parents alike, who can be seen collaborating or working side by side on making patterns, stringing beads, putting together puzzles, building with blocks, and drawing. The boat and the elephant skeleton are favorites backgrounds for photographs of the children.

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## AAM Announces Second Museums Advocacy Day

AAM is seeking to attract more than 300 museum professionals – including directors, staff, trustees, students, and independent professionals – to the nation's capital on March 22-23 2010 to convey the value of museums to federal leaders.

This second Museums Advocacy Day will brief participants on the museum field's legislative agenda and train them in effectively communicating the value of museums to public policy makers.

'We cannot assume that members of Congress know all the ways in which museums are essential,' said AAM president Ford W. Bell. 'Museums Advocacy Day is such a terrific opportunity to bring this unified message to Capitol Hill, and I hope all segments of the museum field will be able to participate in 2010.' See [www.speakupformuseums.org](http://www.speakupformuseums.org).

- AAM 8/19/2009

# Conferences, Meetings and Workshops

## 'Keeping The Faith: Recovery and Renewal'

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Annual Meeting  
Thomasville, GA  
January 20-22 2010  
<http://www.gamg.org/conference2010.html>

Thomasville, the City of Roses, will host the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Annual Meeting. Sessions will include 'You Want to Do What at Our Historic Site!? Special Events and Rentals'; 'Telling Our Stories: African-American Museums in Southeast Georgia'; and 'Getting by with a Little Help from Friends: Successful Partnerships and Why They Work'.

## Alabama Museums Association 2010 Annual Meeting

Gadsden, AL  
February 21-23 2010  
<http://www.alabamamuseums.org/members/annual.php>

Celebrate "The Year of Alabama Main Streets and Hometowns" in Gadsden! We will meet there. The conference schedule, packed with fun times, is being worked on and will be announced this fall.

## 'Reflect on Tech!'

California Association of Museums 2010 Conference  
San Jose, CA  
March 3-5 2010  
<http://calmuseums.org/index.cfm?pagelid=493>

California Association of Museums (CAM) invites you to explore strategies, resources, and ideas for strengthening museums and communities *through technology* in 2010!

The next CAM conference will take place in Silicon Valley, home to the largest concentration of technology expertise in the world and a leader in electronic innovation for over four decades. The CAM conference will explore how current computing technology is changing the way museums are fulfilling their missions in galleries, the workplace, classrooms, and the virtual world – and what is possible in the future.

## North Carolina Museums Council Conference

Raleigh, NC  
March 7-8 2010  
<http://www.ncmuseums.org/ncmc/conference/2010/conference10general.html>

North Carolina Museums Council is still making its plans for the 2010 conference, taking into consideration the issues facing museums in the current economy related to budget and travel. The event will have an abbreviated schedule for that reason.

## 'Museum Tales: What's Your Story?'

South Carolina Federation of Museums (SCFM) Annual Conference  
Greenville, SC  
March 10-12 2010

For this conference we are focusing on interpretation from all perspectives. Curators, administrators, educators, conservators, fundraisers, etc., all have an essential role in the way museums and sites can tell the story of their collection, their area, and their subject. We hope to include sessions that discuss and present best practices from all museum disciplines and specialties.

## 'Pick & Shovel: Digging into Museum Work'

Museums Association of Montana 2010 Annual Conference  
Butte, MT  
March 10-13 2010  
<http://www.montanamuseums.org/conference.htm>

The conference will address issues such as how to make your museum a better place for object preservation, local history, and your community. Presentations will focus on best practice in the field, and take into account the needs of all sizes of museums, particularly smaller museums on tight budgets. Topics may include: object identification; fundraising – including non-traditional methods; membership and board development; conservation; and public education.

## 'Museums Driving Change'

2010 Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) Conference  
Richmond, VA  
March 14-16 2010  
<http://www.vamuseums.org/AnnualConference/tabid/61/Default.aspx>

Our conference is held in March every year, and provides an opportunity for museum staff to come together for educational sessions, networking events, and career-building experiences.

## 'All Aboard: Museums on Track'

Texas Association of Museums 2010 Annual Meeting  
Bryan/College Station, Texas  
March 16-19 2010  
<http://www.io.com/~tam/>

Mark your calendars and plan on joining our Annual Meeting. The Texas Association of Museums is dedicated to fostering educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for all Texans. It accomplishes this by providing a communications network, sponsoring educational programs, and encouraging adherence to professional standards and practices.

## 'TAM Celebrates 50 Years and 50 More!'

Tennessee Association of Museums 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting  
Nashville, TN  
March 30-April 1 2010  
<http://www.tnmuseums.org/Conference.htm>

Tennessee Association of Museums will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its 2010 Annual Meeting.

The Meeting will also launch the Museum Match program, an informal mentoring program for museum professionals. It will strengthen the museum community in Tennessee by pairing emerging professionals with experienced professionals. Mentors should have at least five years' experience in the museum industry. For more information, please contact Jessie Foster at (615) 744 4902 or [jfoster@fristcenter.org](mailto:jfoster@fristcenter.org)

Missouri Museums Association  
2010 Annual Meeting  
Jefferson City, MO  
April 15-16 2010  
<http://www.missourimuseums.org/>

The Missouri Museums Association is co-sponsoring the 52nd annual meeting of the Missouri Conference on History with the Missouri State Archives and the State Historical Society of Missouri in Jefferson City. We invite you to propose conference sessions and papers by and for museums, archives, historical societies, and libraries for a conference track related to these institutions and their specific interests. The deadline for submission of proposals is December 15 2009.

Ohio Museums Association  
2010 Annual Conference  
Newark, OH  
April 25-26 2010  
<http://www.ohiomuseums.org/conference.html>

Sessions on administration, collections, community outreach, conservation, development, education, exhibits, marketing, membership, museum store, public relations, visitor services and volunteers are all vital to our attendees and would be welcome; however, for 2010 we would like the majority of our sessions to focus on the following topics: gearing your museum towards kids; how to make your museum appeal to families; topics for emerging museum professionals; and steering through tough economic times.

Session proposals are being accepted until December 1 2009.

2010 Colorado-Wyoming  
Association of Museums  
(CWAM) Annual Conference  
Laramie, WY  
May 13-15 2010  
<http://www.cwamit.org/>

The 2010 CWAM annual meeting will be held at the beautiful University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. CWAM exists to unite and serve museums in our two states. Member institutions include art museums, history museums, natural history museums, and historical sites.

2010 Hawai'i Museums  
Association (HMA) Annual  
Meeting  
Ford Island Conference Center, HI  
May 21 2010  
[http://www.hawaiiimuseums.org/HMAinfo\\_annualconf.htm](http://www.hawaiiimuseums.org/HMAinfo_annualconf.htm)

Schedule and agenda information to be announced shortly.

'Where Ideas Live!'  
AAM Annual Meeting  
Los Angeles, LA  
May 23-27 2010  
<http://www.aam-us.org/am09/>

With each generation, museum professionals in the United States seek to redefine the word 'museum' and determine anew our responsibilities to the society we serve. While we continue to ask the same questions as our predecessors – What should the museum be? How should it best do its work? Whom should it serve? – the answers change, sometimes subtly, sometimes overtly, with each generation.

Museums are unfinished, ever-changing. We continue to learn along with our visitors, our communities and society.

Washington Museum  
Association  
2010 Annual Conference  
Gig Harbor, WA  
June 16-18 2010  
<http://www.washingtonstatemuseums.org/annualconference.html>

This year's Washington Museum Association Annual Conference will be hosted by the new Harbor History Museum, opening 2010. program will be available shortly.

'The Winds of Opportunity'  
Oklahoma Museums Association and  
American Association for State and  
Local History Joint Meeting  
Oklahoma City, OK  
September 22-25 2010  
<http://www.okmuseums.org/annual-conference/>

Much as Oklahoma's infamous tornadoes and storms generate both gentle and severe winds impacting the state, so too have the winds of opportunity impacted the nation's cultural landscape. Winds, while possibly destructive,

also can usher in new perspectives, opportunities, and critical self examination that may lead to strengthening organizations and the development of previously unforeseen goals. The 2010 joint Annual Meeting of AASLH and the Oklahoma Museums Association will consider these ideas against the backdrop of a changing America.

'Interesting Times: New Roles  
for Collections'  
Museums Australia Annual  
Conference  
Melbourne, Australia  
September 28-October 2 2010  
<http://www.ma2010.com.au/>

The 2010 Museums Australia conference has been moved to spring, a beautiful time of year in Melbourne. Hosted by the University of Melbourne, it will include both local and international speakers. Further information on the program will be available shortly.

Remember: if you are a member of CurCom you are eligible to apply for a Global Curator fellowship to get you there!

2010 Iowa Museum Association  
Annual Meeting & Conference  
Grinnell, IA  
October 17-19 2010  
<http://www.iowamuseums.org/asp/events/eventdetails.aspx?eid=70>

The 2010 IMA Annual Meeting and Workshop will take place at the Rosenfield Center in Grinnell, Iowa. Save the dates!

'Museums for Social Harmony'  
ICOM General Conference  
Shanghai, China  
November 7-13 2010  
[http://icom.museum/gen\\_conferences.html](http://icom.museum/gen_conferences.html)

The next ICOM General Meeting is being planned for 2010 in Shanghai, China. More information will become available during 2009 – do consider attending the most significant international museum event on the calendar!

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AMERICAN  ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

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