CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ALL STORIES ARE TOLD HERE

WAMA 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SPOKANE

Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture • June 19-21, 2019

Every year American society becomes increasingly more diverse, and Washington State is home to some of the most diverse communities in the nation. As museums, what steps are we taking to make this broad range of voices heard in our institutions? Join the Washington Museum Association and our conference hosts at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC), as we explore how museums can build diverse, inclusive and welcoming practices, ensuring ALL STORIES ARE TOLD HERE.

At 103 years old, MAC is still learning and building upon a practice rooted in inclusive collecting. Early acquisitions speak to a tradition dating back to the institution's beginnings, as seen through the memoirs of Ranald MacDonald, a sailor who became the first native-speaking English teacher in isolationist Japan; the papers of Reba Hurn, one of the first women elected to the Washington State Senate; and the letters of Abbie Widner, a prostitute who worked out of Spokane's Colonial Hotel in 1905.

Today the MAC is putting those practices to work through exhibitions like *As Grandmother Taught: Women, Tradition and Plateau Art*, which associates the works of contemporary masters, like basket weaver Bernadine Phillips (Wenatchi/Okanogan) with historic materials; the Visual Thinking Strategies training program that challenges perceptions of who can learn and who cannot, by encouraging self-expression and independent thinking; and the ongoing development and interpretation of the museum's world-class American Indian Plateau Collection with the assistance of the museum's American Indian Cultural Council (AICC).

While the MAC's practices have always valued diversity and inclusion, the stories of well researched and curated collections have become familiar with repeat telling. Other stories, while collected and preserved, are not told as frequently. How does the museum ensure ALL STORIES ARE TOLD HERE as relationships, resources, and the rules of practice change? Perhaps you recognize similar stories in your own institution and wonder just how inclusive is inclusion?

Keynote speaker Adriel Luis, Curator of Digital and Emerging Media at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center speaks with many voices—musician, poet, visual artist, curator and coder. Together Luis and his team at the Smithsonian are developing a series of "culture labs," community-created alternatives to traditional museum exhibitions designed to amplify local voices and challenge traditional definitions of inclusion.

The Washington Museum Association invites you to learn from one another by sharing your common, and uncommon practices for telling ALL STORIES at the Annual Conference June 19-21, at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane.

WaMA
Washington Museum Association

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & TOURS

10:00 AM–4:00 PM **Registrars to the Rescue (R2)** ***Pack Your Gloves!***

Registrars to the Rescue volunteers will be helping the staff at Jundt Art Museum to inventory, organize, and re-tag a large number of framed paintings, prints, and drawings housed in basement storage.

We are excited to once again partner with Art Work Fine Art Services to bring together a team of trained professionals to volunteer on this special project in a wonderful Washington museum.

All available R2R 2019 volunteer spots have been filled through pre-registration.

If you would like to volunteer for future R2R projects, please contact:
WaMA Registrars to the Rescue Committee, c/o Rebecca Engelhardt
Museum of Glass, 1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
or email rengelhardt@museumofglass.org or call 253-284-4705

12:00 PM–1:30 PM ***Survey Says! Improving Survey Effectiveness*** Gilkey Room

Presenter: Kathryn Owen, Kathryn Owen Consulting, LLC

Surveys are the most common way to gather data from visitors, members, staff, and the general public. Yet most people create them without considering whether they are collecting truly useful information. Are you asking the right questions, in the right order? Are your scales appropriate for what you're hoping to measure? Does your visitor actually understand the question you're asking? In this interactive workshop, you will learn best practices for designing surveys and have the opportunity to apply these to your own work. Participants are encouraged to bring surveys they currently use, or are planning to use, at their museums so they can get feedback and pro-tips from professional evaluators.

$15 / Pre-registration required.

2:00 PM–4:00 PM ***Big and Small Ways to Excite Audiences*** Create Space

Presenters: Hannah Schwenderman and Dustyn Addington, Humanities Washington

As a statewide organization, Humanities Washington is fortunate to witness creative and unique forms of public programming. From small tweaks that energize an event, to larger program structures that turn attendees into participants, we will explore dynamic programming opportunities together. Through group discussions and brainstorm sessions, participants will generate novel ways of engaging the public in your organization to excite attendees.

$15 / Pre-registration required.

1:00 PM–5:00 PM **TOUR:** ***Spokane Diversity: Preserving 200 Years of Immigration through Stories, Buildings, and Material Culture***

For over 200 years, people have arrived in the Inland Northwest to join native Plateau Indian cultures in calling this region "home." This field trip will share stories of both long-established African American, European, and Asian communities, as well as more recent 20th- and 21st-century arrivals. A bus tour of downtown businesses, churches, and gathering places, including the East Downtown National Register District, follows an illustrated armchair introduction to the MAC's efforts to diversify its collection. Retired Senior MAC Curator Marsha Rooney will be your guide.

Participants will meet at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture Auditorium.

$35 / Pre-registration required

1:00 PM–3:00 PM **TOUR:** ***Perspectives on Hangman Creek***

Join Warren Seyler, Director of the Spokane Tribe's Natural Resources Department, and Jack Nisbet, author of *Ancient Places: People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest* and *The Dreamer and the Doctor*, for a walk along Hangman Creek, one of the Spokane River's largest tributaries. This leisurely hike will focus on the long-term human and natural history of the drainage as well as the interaction of early white visitors with Salish people from early fur trade days to the military conflicts of the 1850s. (The walk is about a mile on either good dirt trails or gravel roads, with minimal incline.)

Participants will meet at the Sandifer Bridge Parking Lot (Riverside Avenue and Clark Street).

$40 / Pre-registration required

5:00 PM–6:00 PM ***Emerging Museum Professionals Reception at The Elk***

Mingle with emerging museum professionals and members of the WaMA board before the Evening Welcoming Reception at this no-host event. **FREE**

The Elk Public House is at 1931 W. Pacific Ave., Spokane

5:00 PM–6:00 PM ***Managing and Executive Directors Happy Hour Gathering***

Managing and Executive Directors from museums of all sizes and types are invited to join MAC Executive Director Wes Jessup on the second floor balcony of the Cheney Cowles Center for drinks and conversation at this casual gathering. **FREE**

Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Cheney Cowles Center, Second Floor Balcony

6:00 PM–8:00 PM ***Evening Welcoming Reception at the Campbell House***

Join your colleagues and friends for a relaxed opening reception at this authentically restored (c. 1910) English Tudor Revival style home designed by architect Kirtland Cutter. In 1898, Amasa B. Campbell moved his family and mining operations to Spokane to escape Coeur d'Alene's labor strife. The Campbell House in Spokane's beautiful Browne's Addition became the base of operations for Amasa's business interests, wife Grace and daughter Helen's charitable and cultural efforts, and acculturation of the home's newly immigrated Scandinavian employees.

Take a brief ALL STORIES tour of the Campbell House with retired Senior MAC Curator Marsha Rooney, members of the Campbell House Committee and the home's dedicated team of interpreters. Enjoy stunning views of the Spokane River and Spokane's new Kendall Yards from the Veranda or pick up a picnic blanket and enjoy wine, beer, and refreshments on the lawn (weather-permitting). **FREE**

The Campbell House is at 2316 W. First Ave., Spokane, on the campus of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

WaMA 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, June 20

9:00 AM–11:30 AM ***Introductions, Awards, and Keynote by Adriel Luis*** Auditorium

Join us as WaMA President Freya Liggett presents our Annual Awards for Excellence to outstanding museums and their staffs, volunteers, boards, and benefactors.

How Inclusive is Inclusion? Finding Community in our Differences

Keynote by Adriel Luis

Adriel Luis photo Dominic Chavez

Communities are, by definition, based on commonality. But as our societies become increasingly diverse, complex, and polarized, our dilemma seems not to be in embracing our similarities, but by confronting our differences. In this keynote, curator Adriel Luis challenges how we demarcate our communities, and investigates how humanity can align itself, even when we don't all see eye to eye.

Adriel Luis is a published poet, musician, graphic designer, and agent for social change. He currently serves as the Curator for Digital and Emerging Practice at the Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Center, where he advocates for emerging artists of color to be exhibited and paid fairly by museums. He and his team have also been curating Culture Labs, an alternative to museums based in community organizing principles. These pop-up museum experiences are created rapidly and are conversation-starting opportunities. Luis and his team have made their Culture Lab manifesto playbook available online at https://smithsonianapa.org/culturelab/.

THURSDAY, June 20

12:00 PM–1:30 PM ADVOCACY LUNCH — Amphitheater

Need a refresher on upcoming issues of significance to Washington museums and the cultural community? Our noon lunch will include top-notch cultural advocates who will help us understand the most effective ways to advocate for the Washington museum field. UW Museology Program graduate students Samuel Howes and Elaine Carter present new research in Washington museums.

Lunch is free for full conference registrants.

2:30 PM–3:45 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) *Telling Textile Stories* — Gilkey Room

Presenters: Valerie Wahl and Dana F. Bowne, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

Many surprising stories lie behind the quilts, coverlets, and other textiles that often sit quietly in museum collections. Such stories frequently interweave history, art, geography, and economics with personal experience. How can we learn these stories and share them with museum visitors? In this presentation, independent textile researcher Dana F. Bowne will offer strategies for investigating textiles. She will describe clues to look for and suggest helpful resources.

(2) *Constructive Collaborations* — Create Space

Presenters: Stefanie Terasaki, Museum of Pop Culture; Sarah Samson, Renton History Museum; Lynn Bethke, Museum of Culture and Environment, Central Washington University

Internships and practicums are standard in all types of museums. But how can they be constructive for both the museum and the student. How can the institution create a rewarding experience that advances their mission? How can the student collaborate to gain marketable job experience? A look at how the Renton History Museum and former interns created a successful collaboration with tips and insights for other museums and current graduate students to consider.

(3) *All Stories Are Told Here, Now: How a State Facility Became a Tribal Program* — Auditorium

Presenter: Kristen Heidenthal, Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center, Colville Tribes

Washington State Parks opened Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center in 1960, commemorating the US and British fur trade enterprises in what is now Washington State. With State Parks budget cuts, Fort Okanogan faced sporadic staffing, upkeep, and hours of operation for almost two decades. In 2010, State Parks gave the center to the Colville Tribes. This program will describe the challenges of reestablishing an almost forgotten cultural resource. We will describe refocusing the interpretation, developing programing, anticipating deferred maintenance issues, and reestablishing a place in and with the various communities we serve.

(4) *Good News from Small Museums: Reinvigorating Your Visitors and Cleaning Out the Attic* — Archives Reading Room

Presenters: Alys Means, Benton County Historical Society and Museum; and Diana Mancel, San Juan Historical Society and Museum

Small museums are identifying problem areas and developing innovative solutions. In 2014 the Benton County Museum launched a book club devoted to western history; adding a travel club resulted in 100 enthusiastic donors and volunteers for this once sleepy museum. In 2016 the San Juan Historical Society faced declining resources and volunteers and eight buildings to maintain. An ambitious game plan enabled them to amass a team of 30 new volunteers and turn their future forecast from dismal to sunny. Learn from these museums' successes and mistakes and have a few laughs along the way.

4:00 PM–5:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) *Implementing Race Equity in Museums: Building Relationships with Underrepresented Communities* — Auditorium

Presenters: Jeanine Greco and Amber Buell, Kitsap History Museum

As museums move toward policies of social justice and race equity, what are the next steps in engaging communities who aren't represented in exhibits and programs? How do we share the history of underrepresented groups if our collections are primarily Euro-centric? Panelists will discuss their experience building relationships with marginalized communities in Kitsap County to implement race equity and proper representation in the museum's permanent exhibits and collections.

(2) *Good Night!: Put Your Lodging Tax Worries to Bed* Create Space

Presenter: Monica Miller, Gallery One

This discussion will prompt the pros and cons of lodging tax funds. How does lodging tax benefit your museum? How does your city distribute the funds? How can arts make a better case for our impact on tourism? Are you in your city or Chamber's marketing plan? How do you quantify and capture our visitors' impact? And how can we leverage funds to support each other and create a statewide network through sponsorships and partner promotions?

(3) *Snapshot of a Reservation in Oils, Pastel, & Pencil* Archives Reading Room

Presenter: Frank Andrews III, Colville Tribal Museum

The images produced at Washington State College's Art Colony on the Colville Reservation (1937-1941) provide additional and rare documentation of a generation, places, and events not often captured on film by residents. Cameras were rare and developing film was expensive during the Great Depression. The portraits and sketches in this collection preserved tribal member's images, regalia, and events, providing later a generation insight into a time that was rapidly forcing changes in everyday life on the Reservation. This session will discuss how the Colville Tribal Museum has utilized these images to augment our knowledge.

(4) *Collections Conundrums: A Discussion* Gilkey Room

Presenters: Sadie Thayer, Kittitas County Historical Museum; Lynn Bethke, Museum of Culture & The Environment, Central Washington University; Anna Stiles, Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University

There's rarely a one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to challenges in collections care. Join experienced collections professionals who will share about difficulties that they've faced, from caring for unusual objects to keeping pests away. Come prepared to share your story of sticky (sometimes literally!) situations, or seek advice from your peers in this supportive session.

6:00 PM–9:00 PM Evening Reception at Chateau Rive at the Flour Mill

Just steps away from the edge of the Spokane River, the Flour Mill is home to several shops, restaurants and the elegant Chateau Rive. Numerous historical details allude to the property's 72 years as a working flour mill and are a reminder of Spokane's industrial beginnings, including some of the city's biggest battles between nature and industry.

Enjoy dinner and drinks on the former threshing floor of this historic landmark. Put your historical acumen to the test with a Spokane scandal conversation starter or take in the roar of the falls from the outdoor garden. You may even get a chance to peek inside the mill's former grain silos.

Chateau Rive is at the Flour Mill, 621 W. Mallon Ave., Spokane

$60/Member, $75/Non-Member

Friday, June 21, 2019

9:00 AM–10:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) *Island Stories: A Collaborative Digital Project in the San Juan Islands* Auditorium

Presenters: Larry Cebula, Eastern Washington University and Washington State Archives; Brandon Caldwell, San Juan Island National Historical Park; Brittney Maruska, Orcas Island Museums; Chelsie Price, Eastern Washington University; Alex Mikinaak, Eastern Washington University; Whitney Wyngaert, Eastern Washington University

Digital projects can seem daunting, particularly for small museums. This panel will show how a unique partnership of two small museums, a university, the National Park Service, and some clever university students produced an exciting digital interpretive project, Island Histories: Stories of the San Juans. Based on the Curatescape platform, Island Histories offers placed-based historical storytelling throughout the San Juans, and includes a smartphone app for exploring the history around you. Presenters will describe how the project came to be, describe the process of both building the website and researching and writing the stories, and will include a student perspective on working on the project. This session will also mark the public launch of the project.

FRIDAY, June 21 • 9:00 AM–10:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS, continued

(2) *Bringing 21st Century Access and Digitization to the Wilson Research Center, Okanogan County Historical Society* — Gilkey Room

Presenter: Sandy Brightbill, Okanogan County Historical Society

Okanogan County Historical Society is the umbrella organization that includes the Wilson Research Center and four county museums. OCHS is governed by an 18-member Board of Trustees. In 2016, our volunteer historical society submitted our first-ever funding letter to our membership. Braced with the success of our funding letter, we bravely forged ahead with a grant application to update our 1985 computer system. It had come to a "do it or lose it" data situation. This paper will highlight our maiden voyage exploring grant writing, planning, and accomplishing the upgrading of an antiquated system with new equipment, networks, and software.

(3) *The Secret Life of An Artifact* — Walther Gallery (Gallery A)

Presenters: Brooke Wagner, Valerie Wahl, and Katie Staib, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

How can museums illustrate the meaning and impact of collection and preserving material culture? *The Secret Life of An Artifact* exhibition at the MAC is a semi-permanent exhibition that acts as introduction to the Museum, how we collect, what we collect, and how we preserve what we collect. The gallery also functions as a working lab for collections work, engaging our visitor in its importance. In this session we will talk about how this exhibition came about and what it is like to work on collections projects in front of the visitor, as well as introducing you to the school age educational component that developed out of this exhibition. This presentation will be used to spark discussions on methods of making collections matter to museum visitors.

(4) *Youth Stories in an Effective Arts-based Curriculum* — Create Space

Presenter: Ashlie Beach, Kirkland Arts Center

Kirkland Arts Center instituted the Make Your Mark program to encourage youth development, particularly with underserved youth in Title 1 schools, and any students deemed in need of tools to express emotions. Learn to implement an after-school arts-based SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program, in which students can share their stories—verbally, through group discussion and oral expression; in writing, through guided journal prompts; and non-verbally, through completed art work—and thereby feel empowered.

10:30 AM–11:45 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) *Using PastPerfect to Reveal Your Artifacts' Secrets: A Case Study from an All-Volunteer Effort* — Gilkey Room

Presenters: Suzanne Perin and Sharon Sumpter, Shafer Museum

This presentation will share how a small rural historical museum uses PastPerfect software as an interpretive tool to link all the disparate items in its collections together to "paint" a fuller picture of a person, a town, an event, an industry. This is a quick and easy way to reveal the secrets of your collections. This is a step-by-step presentation of entering data into PastPerfect, anticipating useful metadata for what a specific keyword search can deliver, plus a time to discuss challenges for small museums that rely on volunteers (often dedicated retirees who may not know the latest technology) and to ask questions or swap tidbits of wisdom with other database users.

(2) *New Topics: Museums and Well-Being* — Create Space

Presenters: Jenna Green and Dorothy Svgdik, University of Washington Museology Program

Museums and Health—both inside and outside the building—is an emerging field of study; in this session two Master's candidates present their intriguing findings. Jenna Green's work will provide the context for how museum education can encourage innovative outreach programs, collaboration with new partners, and access to more communities. Dorothy Svgdik shares how working in a museum at a site of trauma, such as a natural disaster or terrorist attack, impacts the emotional wellbeing of professionals employed in visitor-facing capacities.

(3) *Flood, Earthquakes, and Fires, Oh My! The Importance of Planning for Emergencies* — Auditorium

Presenters: Anna Goodwin, Maryhill Museum of Art; John Larson, Polson Museum; Lissa Kramer, Washington State Historical Society

Are you ready for the unimaginable? This session will explore emergency preparedness from several angles. Anna Goodwin will present lessons learned from Maryhill Museum of Art's recent disaster plan revision. John Larson, who has been front and center during the Aberdeen Museum fire and aftermath, will share the process of recovering from a catastrophic incident. Lissa Kramer will discuss efforts at the state level to develop further resources for emergency preparedness support and education.

(4) *Beyond the Familiar Terms:* Archives Reading Room
Repairing Indigenous Collections through Inclusive Processing

Presenters: Anna Harbine and Tisa Matheson, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture; Gena Peone, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

This panel is designed to help museum professionals who work with indigenous collections and are interested in decolonization practices in their collections. Processing indigenous collections can be daunting due to outdated nomenclature and cataloging schema, confusing access restrictions, or poor provenance and documentation. This panel will take an interactive deep-dive into the unique challenges collections managers face in processing indigenous collections, and empower attendees to incorporate inclusive practices in their own institutions.

12:15 PM–1:45 PM General session lunch Amphitheater

UW Museology Program graduate students Melinda Rukavina and Catherine Allen present their findings from a 2018 survey of Washington Museum Association non-members. Annual Report by WaMA President Freya Liggett, including strategic plan progress; Presentation of new Board members and officers.

Lunch is free for full conference registrants.

DON'T GO HOME YET — STICK AROUND!

2:00 PM–4:00 PM *Jundt Art Museum Reception*

Please join us for an afternoon reception at the Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University. Appetizers will be served in the museum's Chancellor's Room under Chihuly's *Gonzaga Red Chandelier*, and guests are invited to explore two recently opened exhibitions from the CLOSE-IN series. In the Jundt Galleries, *Drawn to the Wall VII* features five regional artists: Jamie Naderny, Christine Kimball, Robert Fifield, Dan McCann, and Jen Erickson. Each artist is given two weeks to complete a drawing on one side of an 8-by-11-foot wall, but the unusual component of this invitational is that the drawings will be removed by the artists themselves by painting them over after the exhibition. On view in the Arcade Gallery will be *Evolution: Potter Harry Green's 50-Year Journey*. Active in establishing the study and creation of pottery at Gonzaga University several decades ago, potter Harry Green continues to throw functional serving pieces using only porcelain clay and china white glaze.

The museum is on the west side of Gonzaga University's campus near the corner of Desmet Aveue and Pearl Steet.

Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University

WaMA 2019 Award Recipients

2019 Award of Exhibition Excellence
National Nordic Museum for
Northern Exposure – Contemporary Nordic Arts Revealed
Co-Curators Jonathan Sajda and Robin Kaufmann

2019 Award of Exhibition Excellence
Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center
for ***Beyond the Frame: Inland Bounty***

2019 Award of Project Excellence
National Nordic Museum for their **new museum facility project**

2019 Registrars to the Rescue Award
Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University
in partnership with Art Work Fine Art Services

WaMA 2019 Conference Scholarship Recipients:

Olivia Bode:
Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship

Connor Hayes:
Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship

Jenna Green:
Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship

Charlene Kauzlarich:
Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship

Cassandra de Kanter:
Robert Gruhn Working Professional Scholarship

Liz Seelye: WaMA Board Scholarship

Cindy Parks: WaMA Board Scholarship

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The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture,

for the significant in-kind contribution of the facilities and staff time producing our annual meeting.

Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

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