



OMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2022 is the Ontario Museum Association's 50th Anniversary, and we are so thrilled to welcome members back to both an in-person and online conference this year!

This year's theme is **Changing Directions: Practice over Permanence**. This theme embodies the changing nature of museums and focuses on what museums are currently doing, rather than what they might do in the future.

Here are some possible subthemes and questions to help get you inspired. You will notice that these questions are written to put the focus on current practice.

PEOPLE

Museums would be nothing without their staff, volunteers, and communities. Whether on the collective or the individual, museums have an impact.

- How have your mentors and/or senior staff created a safe space for discussion?
- How are community members from diverse backgrounds and identities involved in your museum's decision-making processes?
- How have you refocused the stories your museum tells so that they are relevant to the communities that you serve?
- What steps has your institution taken to prevent burnout among staff? How have you planned for succession in your museum?
- What have museums/your museum learned from other sectors/industries?
- Why did you stay/leave the museum sector? What makes employees stay/leave individual positions/institutions?

PURPOSE

Museums are constantly evolving, as are their roles and values. Along the way, they face uncertainty as they examine their purpose.

- How does your institution embody its values? What has your institution done to embrace change/uncertainty?
- Does the word "permanent" have space in the museum sector?
- How does your museum meet the needs of the future while acknowledging and considering the limitations of its present situation?
- How are you prioritizing changes? What does your decision-making process look like?
- How does your institution incorporate uncertainty into its planning documents?

PROCESS

Museum activities don't start and end with implementation. Decision-making, learning from mistakes, and closing a project are all part of process.

- What museum work are you avoiding?
- How do you end things in a good way? (e.g., project close, organization, relationship)
- How has your museum been transparent and accountable to its audiences?
- How have you learned from mistakes?
- How have you balanced the needs of various stakeholders with the museum's needs? (e.g., board members, volunteers, museum visitors)

Not sure how your session idea fits with our theme? The OMA is happy to discuss proposals before they are submitted for review. Contact us with your ideas and questions at conference@museumsontario.ca.

We invite proposal submissions from equity-deserving groups, all levels of museum staff, and volunteers, students, and members of the GLAM sector. We welcome submissions from presenters outside the museum field as well.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

This year's conference will be two days – one in-person and one online. Limited time slots are available in each format. Please indicate in your proposal which format you would prefer, or if you are open to either or both.

SESSION FORMATS

Option 1: In-person on Monday, November 7, 2022 in Hamilton, ON

Sessions are between 30 and 70 minutes long and may be structured in any of the following ways, or by another means of delivery that is well thought-out and described:

- Panel Discussion: Three to five speakers give short formal presentations followed by commentary and/or group discussion. Each session should have a moderator to introduce speakers, facilitate discussion, and keep the session on schedule.
- Presentation, Case Study: One or two speakers presenting on a single topic or experience.
- Presentation, How-To Session: One or two speakers presenting a step-by-step process of anything related to museum practice (i.e. projects, collaborations, creation of other museum assets).
- Workshop: One or two speakers lead participants through a hands-on or interactive activity, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions, try new approaches, and receive feedback from the presenters.
- Other: artistic works, interviews, debates, roundtable discussions, etc. Please explain.

Option 2: Online on Monday, November 21, 2022

Sessions are between 5 and 70 minutes long and may be structured in any of the following ways, using Zoom in either Webinar or Meeting format:

- Panel Discussion: Three to five speakers give short formal presentations followed by commentary and/or group discussion. Each session should have a moderator to introduce speakers, facilitate discussion, and keep the session on schedule.
- Presentation, Case Study: One or two speakers presenting on a single topic or experience.
- Presentation, How-To Session: One or two speakers presenting a step-by-step process of anything related to museum practice (ie: projects, collaborations, creation of other museum assets).
- Workshop: One or two speakers lead participants through a hands-on or interactive activity, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions, try new approaches, and receive feedback from the presenters.
- Ignite: One or two speakers on any topic in a rapid, pre-recorded, timed presentation format: 5 minutes and 20 slides that advance automatically every fifteen seconds (with live Q&A).
- Member Check-in: lead participants in a discussion about a topic of interest
- Other: artistic works, interviews, debates, roundtable discussions, etc. Please explain.

Online presentations can be pre-recorded. Presenters must be available for a live Q&A session.

AV

In-person AV: The standard audio-visual (A/V) set-up for all session formats consists of an LCD projector, laptop with audio & speakers, screen and microphones. Special A/V requests and session formats will be considered, but not guaranteed.

Online AV: Online sessions will take place in Zoom in either Webinar or Meeting format.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Proposals must be submitted using the [online form](#) by **Monday, June 27, 2022** at 11:59pm.

Please be prepared with the following information before completing the online form:

- Title of Proposal
- Session Organizer information: name, title, institution, email, phone number, bio
- Other presenter information: names, titles, institutions, biographies
- Select in-person or online
- Session format (Common formats are listed below; additional formats will be considered)
- Session length (Including Q & A: 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 60 minutes, 70 minutes; 5 minute Ignite)

- Proposal (2500 character limit). Should include:
 - Main issues or topics to be addressed
 - Focus and intent of the proposal
 - Relationship to theme
 - Objectives you wish to achieve
 - Proposed approach to engage the audience.
 - Please note: all session formats will include a question and answer portion unless otherwise specified.
 - How the session considers issues of diversity, equity, accessibility, inclusion, decolonization and/or anti-racism.
- Session description: 2 sentence description (max 500 characters) that provides a succinct description of the session. This description will appear on the OMA website, mobile app and other published conference materials. The Program Committee and OMA reserve the right to edit approved session descriptions and titles.
- Agree to the terms and conditions (see below)
- Other information that the reviewers may find of interest (e.g. has this content been presented elsewhere, did the program win an award, is the session informed by research or data, does the session build, reflect on, or support other museum-related initiatives).
- Optional: other related materials that may better illustrate or explain the content of the proposal (e.g. brochures, presentation slides, handouts, publications, photographs, etc.).

SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PRESENTERS

Session organizers are responsible for organizing the session and relaying session information. The OMA maintains contact only with the session organizer, who is responsible for relaying information about scheduling and setup information, and for ensuring that session presenters are aware of deadlines to complete the speaker agreement and register.

The OMA and its members appreciate the contribution that presenters make in sharing their professional knowledge and expertise to strengthen the museum sector; however, all presenters are expected to register and pay for the conference at least for the day they will present at the presenter rate (Approximately \$170 + HST for in-person and \$70+HST for online, to be confirmed, price subject to change). The OMA does not pay for expenses for session speakers. There are a number of fully subsidized registrations available to presenters and attendees (described further below).

All sessions and presentations may be filmed, recorded, photographed and used by the OMA in the delivery of its Programs.

FULLY SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATIONS

To encourage an inclusive Conference environment, the OMA provides 15 fully subsidized registrations. Subsidies are available to presenters who come from outside the cultural sector, as well as presenters and attendees who are unemployed or underemployed, identify as Indigenous, and/or identify with groups that are often marginalized or excluded from culture and heritage due to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or disability. To request your registration fees be waived, simply check the box on the registration form. Subsidies will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

To encourage participation of community and other external partners (those working outside of the culture/heritage sector) who will only attend their session, registration fees may be subsidized in consultation with the OMA, contact conference@museumsontario.ca.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCHEDULE

Proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Program Committee for:

- Relevance to the conference theme
- Relevance to professional development needs of the sector and OMA Members
- Clarity of content and learning objectives
- Diversity of perspectives and presenters
- Practical and relevant examples and how to apply them in multiple settings

The program committee reserves the right to make suggestions to improve proposals. This might include adding or changing speakers, expanding your topic to include other examples, or merging your session with one that is similar. This is done in an effort to provide the best overall program for conference attendees.

The Program Committee will consider proposals in English, French, ASL, and other languages and the OMA will work with the Session Organizer and endeavor to find the resources to support their participation.

If you require an accommodation in order to participate in any part of this initiative, or if you have suggestions on how we can improve accessibility, please let us know how we can support by sending an email to conference@museumsontario.ca.

*Proposals are due by 11:59 pm on **Monday, June 27, 2022**. Session organizers will be contacted by August 2022.*

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

The Ontario Museum Association respects, values and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics and perspectives that make each person unique. The OMA believes the diversity among the broad range of people and museums we represent is a tremendous strength. We consider diversity and inclusion a driver of institutional excellence and seek out diversity of participation, thought, and action. It is OMA's aim that members, partners, key stakeholders, and programs reflect and embrace these core values. Read more in the Ontario Museum Association's [Inclusion 2025: A Practitioner's Guide to Inclusive Museums](#).

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Ontario Museum Association strives to support and advocate for all members of the museum community. Throughout this hybrid Conference and related programming, we are committed to providing inclusive, respectful, accessible, and safe physical and digital spaces for learning and collaboration. Participants at the OMA Conference are expected to maintain a professional demeanor and engage in respectful interactions by treating all individuals with respect and dignity. Inappropriate behaviour and language including but not limited to personal attacks, bigotry, derogatory remarks, racism, xenophobia, and harassment will not be tolerated.

OMA staff are working hard to monitor the Conference's digital platforms, and reserve the right to dismiss questions, and remove attendees who might pose a threat to the wellbeing of our community. If you have been the target of or a witness to harmful behaviour, please report it as soon as possible. You can do so by sending us an email to conference@museumsontario.ca or approaching an OMA staff member at the event.

We hope that you have an enjoyable Conference experience!

SPEAKER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submission of your proposal by any means indicates your acceptance of these terms and conditions for participating in the 2022 Ontario Museum Association Annual Conference if your proposal is accepted by the Program Committee.

1. At least one author of the proposal must register for the conference by the date specified in the speaker agreement. If no author of the proposal has registered for the conference by this date, the proposed presentation will be removed from the conference program. To encourage participation of community and other external partners (those working outside of the culture/heritage sector) who will only attend their session, registration fees may be waived in consultation with the OMA.
2. The OMA and its members appreciate the contribution that presenters make in sharing their professional knowledge and expertise to strengthen the museum sector; however, all presenters are expected to register for the conference. The OMA does not pay for expenses for session speakers.
3. All sessions and presentations may be filmed, and images or video footage taken, in whole or in part, individually or in conjunction with other images and video footage, to be webcast, archived online and displayed on the OMA website and other OMA communication vehicles, and to be used for promotional purposes in perpetuity.
4. By submitting your proposal, you certify that:
 - a. This proposal was prepared originally for the 2022 OMA Conference.
 - b. That you and any co-presenters have the requisite rights and permissions to grant the OMA the rights to the presentation, in print or electronic form (video recording and online slides)
 - c. You also warrant that you have specifically obtained any and all required permissions for the reproduction of any included illustrations, tables or extended quotations from their copyright holders.
 - d. You authorize any images or video footage taken, in whole or in part, individually or in conjunction with other images and video footage, to be webcast, archived online and displayed on the OMA website and other OMA communication vehicles, and to be used for promotional purposes in perpetuity.
 - e. You (including any co-authors) retain copyright in this work.

