



Call for Proposals

Ontario Museum Association Annual Conference 2020

Working Title- Museums Contribute To the Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Well-being

Huntsville, Ontario

October 28-30, 2020

Museums are both engaged as global citizens, and central to the vitality of their local communities. In working towards the goals of [Ontario's Museums 2025](#), museums are committed to their local communities and the province. The OMA Annual Conference 2020 provides an opportunity to reflect on how Ontario museums are currently working, and can become more engaged, with worldwide initiatives to improve the lives of people, protect the planet, strengthen our institutions, and ensure prosperity for all. Through their programs, partnerships, and community collaborations, museums are also working to support the global priority areas identified in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 global goals were designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030, addressing social and environmental challenges.



Within a larger aim of supporting and celebrating the work of museums for their communities, the OMA Annual Conference 2020 invites a particular focus on *Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being*.

The OMA welcomes proposals that discuss the successes, lessons learned, and relevance of the SDGs and a “think global, act local” approach in museum work today. Some questions to consider are:

- What work is your museum doing in support of the SDGs?
- How have you collaborated in pursuit of common goals, leveraged your skills and unique resources, or used a new approach to enhance positive impacts?
- How have your museum spaces or collections served a sustainable or empowering purpose?
- How does your museum support the health of the people around you?

Many museums are already engaged to achieve these objectives and have lessons to share across the sector. Culture, heritage, and creativity are enablers of sustainable development across the SDGs. In 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that museums and their collections are

“partners in sustainable development through the preservation and protection of heritage, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, the transmission of scientific knowledge, the development of educational policy, lifelong learning and social cohesion, and the development of the creative industries and the tourism economy.”¹

Framing our work in the context of the SDGs helps connect to these wider global targets.

In particular, *Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being* is an emerging area of action for museums. Current research shows that museum visits have measureable impacts on the quality of wellbeing for individuals and communities. Initiatives like social prescribing, community outreach, and inclusion of marginalized communities are seen as opportunities for museums to play a major role in addressing a broad sense of well-being.

Read more about how museums can support Sustainable Development here:

OECD and the International Council of Museums. (2019). *Culture and local development: maximising the impact—A guide for local governments, communities and museums.*

<http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/oecd-icom-guide.htm>

Janes, Robert R., and Richard Sandell, eds. 2019. *Museum Activism.* New York: Routledge.

<https://www.routledge.com/Museum-Activism/Janes-Sandell/p/book/9780815369974>

McGhie, Henry. (2019). *Museums and the Sustainable Development Goals: a how-to guide for museums, galleries, the cultural sector and their partners.* Curating Tomorrow, UK.

<https://curatingtomorrow236646048.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/museums-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-2019.pdf>

¹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000246331>



Diversity, Equity, Intersectionality, 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 [*Inclusion2025: A Practitioner's Guide to Inclusive Museums*](#).

Audience

The OMA Conference attracts delegates working in all areas of museum practice throughout the province and from a wide variety of institutions:

- Small Museums
- Volunteer-run Museums
- Large Museums
- Municipal, Provincial, or National Museums
- Historic Sites
- Art Galleries
- Archives
- Libraries
- Heritage Institutions
- Historic Sites
- Cultural and Knowledge Centres
- Government Agencies
- Cultural Tourism Sector
- Emerging Museum Professionals
- Volunteer Museum Professionals
- Museum Sector Leaders
- Museum Studies Students
- Suppliers and Vendors



Individuals who would like to present at the Conference are invited to submit proposals and related materials by completing the form at members.museumsonario.ca by March 2, 2020.

How to submit a proposal

Proposals must be submitted using the [online submission form](#) by Monday, March 2, 2020.

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

- Title of Proposal (max 8 words)
- Session Organizer information – name, institution, address, email, phone number
- Presenter information – names, institutions, addresses, emails, phone numbers, biographies
- Session format (select from list of options below)
- Session length (Including Q & A: 20 minutes, 45 minutes, 60 minutes; Ignite Session: 5 Minutes)
- Proposal (2500 character limit). Should include:
 - Main issues or topics to be addressed
 - Focus and intent of the proposal
 - Relationship to theme (including to which SDGs the session relates)
 - Objectives you wish to achieve
 - Proposed approach to engage the audience (e.g. roundtable discussion, interactive activity.) Please note: all session formats except Ignites will include a question and answer portion unless otherwise specified.
 - How the session considers issues of diversity, equity, accessibility, or inclusion
 - 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)
- Brief session description: 2 sentence description (max 350 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.

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.

Session organizers may also include letters of support and other related materials if available (e.g. brochures, presentation slides, handouts, publications, photographs, etc.). These additional materials will assist the conference program committee to plan the best program possible and should not include anything that must be returned to the session organizer.

Session Formats

Sessions are between 5 and 60 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 (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, timed presentation format: 5 minutes and 20 slides that advance automatically every fifteen seconds.
- **Other:** interviews, debates, roundtable discussions, etc. Please explain.



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 the presenter rate. The OMA does not pay for expenses for session speakers. All sessions and presentations may be filmed, recorded, photographed and used by the OMA in the delivery of its Programs.

All presenters must register and pay for the conference before the deadline outlined in the speaker agreement (to be sent following acceptance of your proposal). 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.

Selection Criteria and Schedule

Proposals will be reviewed 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.

Proposals are due by 11:59pm on Monday, March 2, 2020. Session organizers will be contacted by the end of May 2020.

DEADLINE EXTENSION until 11:59pm on March 16, 2020.