

Conference Connections Survival Guide

*Strong and Successful Museums
The Road to Renewal
Kingston, Ontario
October 11-13, 2017*

**Brought to you
by the**

#GOEMP

**Group of Ontario
Emerging Museum
Professionals**

&



**Ontario Museum
Association**

**Join the
Conversation**

#OMACONF2017



Social Media at #OMAConf2017

There will be lots of opportunities at Conference to help you engage with others on social media so be sure to have your smartphone handy!

Join the Conversation by using the hashtag: **#OMACONF2017**

Follow the **OMA** at: @museumsontario on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

The **Group of Ontario Emerging Museum Professionals'** hashtag is: **#GOEMP**. Don't forget to join us on Facebook for more **GOEMP** news and events!

Getting Started

Choosing Sessions

When you registered for Conference, you selected the sessions you were most interested in. You're not bound to those sessions, though, and are free to go to whichever sessions you would like. If you're still on the fence about which ones to attend, here are some tips for choosing the best ones for you!

Tips

- If there is a topic you're interested in/presenter you admire, go to that session!
- If your colleague is presenting, go to their session.
- But on the other hand, mix it up a bit! Plan to go to a combination of:
 - Sessions you feel you should go to, and sessions that look fun/interesting/different
 - Sessions that are relevant to your own work
 - Sessions outside your comfort zone!
- And be flexible!
 - Be ready to throw out your plans if, for example, you hear about how great a speaker at another session is, or if your Conference Connection insists you'd love another session.
 - Have a back-up session in mind for each time slot in case the one you wanted to go to fills up!

About Conference Connections

Thank you for signing up for **Conference Connections**, the mentorship matchmaking program brought to you by the **Group of Ontario Emerging Museum Professionals!**

To make the most of your connections and the various other **GOEMP** activities this year, here are a few handy tips, thoughtful questions, and ice breakers you can use!

Getting Started

Before the Conference, you will be contacted by a member of the GOEMP Committee with information about your match. We recommend reaching out to your connection before you leave for Kingston. This is a chance to (virtually) introduce yourself, and this is where you can arrange a meeting place/time at the conference. If possible, we suggest meeting up with your mentor/mentee before or on the first day of the Conference so that you have the full two days to get to know one another.

Useful things to have on hand:

- Notebook and pens/pencils
- Business cards
- Conference information package and schedule
- Your connection's email/contact info— just in case something comes up and the time/location gets changed.

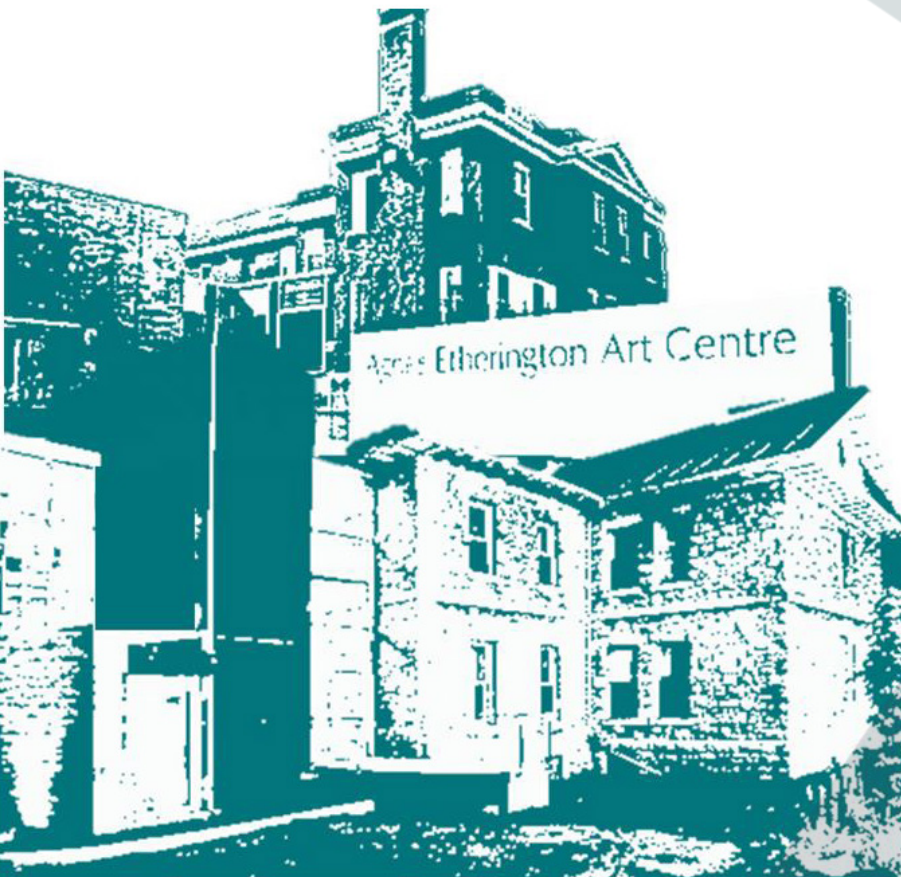
For Mentees

Before the Connection

Take a few minutes and research your mentor, their museum/organization, and their community beforehand. This will show that you have put thought into the meeting, and it may give you some ideas for conversation starters.

Remember, as a mentee, this is your opportunity to learn from the experiences of your mentor, and it is also a chance to ask for their feedback. You will be meeting a seasoned professional, someone who has spent time in the field, and they can offer helpful advice and perspectives for someone who is emerging.

We say **Conference Connections** is what you make of it! This is your chance to meet and network with a seasoned professional. **Be sure to jot down a few questions ahead of the connection.**



Keeping the Connection after Conference

- Don't give people a chance to forget you. Be sure to send a follow-up email, and have an updated CV or business card ready to go.
- The occasional mention or link on social media is another great way to keep in touch.
- Remember to thank your mentor after the Conference. If you have a good connection, be sure to follow up on any ongoing conversations.

For Mentors

Getting Started

The primary role of a mentor is to help your mentee take the steps they need to meet their goals successfully. Engage your mentee with discussion; open-ended questions work well for provoking thought and reflection, creating space for conversation. This is your opportunity to provide guidance and support to an emerging professional, and your advice will help them to develop the path they have chosen.

We say **Conference Connections** is what you make of it! This is your chance to meet and network with an emerging professional, who will be forging the future for museums in Ontario. You'll be meeting an up-and-coming professional, and the guidance you can offer is valuable to their career development. **Be sure to jot down a few questions ahead of the connection!**

Keeping the Connection after Conference

- Send a follow-up email, and be sure to thank your mentee.
- The occasional mention or link on social media is another great way to keep in touch.
- If you have a good connection, be sure to follow up on any ongoing conversations. "Feel free to contact me in the future"

Conversation Starters

For Mentees

- I was at your presentation and wondered/loved/wanted to know more about...
- You work at (blank) museum? I went there/want to go/read about...
- What made you decide to get into museum work?
- Is this where you thought you would end up in your career?
- Who/what has influenced you the most?
- What is the most helpful advice you have received/you can give?
- I want to (do this) with my career. What steps would you recommend I take to achieve it?
- I want to (do this) with my career. Who else would you recommend I connect with?
- Which sessions are you attending over Conference?* I really want to see...

***This one works best if you research ahead of your meeting. Take a look at the sessions and try to come up with a talking point for each. This way you'll have something to talk about no matter which session they are attending!**

These questions are just examples. Let the conversation go where it does, and have fun learning from your connection!



Conversation Starters

For Mentors

- What do you hope to achieve from this experience? What made you decide on a career in the museum field?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What steps have you taken to meet your goal?
- What challenges do you see in attaining your goal, and how can you see yourself overcoming them?
- What are your strengths? What has enabled you to be successful in the past?
- What can I do to help you succeed in achieving your goal?
- What would be your dream job in the museum/heritage sector?
- Is this the first conference you've attended? What do you think of the program so far?
- Who are you interested in meeting at Conference? I know (that person) is attending.
- Which sessions are you going to/have been to?*

***This one works best if you research ahead of your meeting. Take a look at the sessions and try to come up with a talking point for each. This way you'll have something to talk about no matter which session they are attending!**

These questions are just examples. Let the conversation go where it does, and have fun learning from your connection!



About GOEMP

Are you an Emerging Museum Professional? If you are in the first ten years of your museum career in Ontario, then the **GOEMP** is for you.

The Group of Ontario Emerging Museum Professionals is represented by the GOEMP Committee, who act as a voice and resource for the GOEMP community, providing programming, communications, and resources both digitally and in-person, fostering a supportive, professional network among Ontario's EMPs.

Contact Us

For more information about EMP activities and initiatives in Ontario:

- Join the **Group of Ontario Emerging Museum Professionals** Facebook Group
- Visit our website: www.goemp.wordpress.com
- Reach us by email at: ontariogoemp@gmail.com
- Get our attention and see what's going on with the hashtag

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