

Cali- **Museums Managing Crisis**

Museums and other institutions have stepped up in a time of crisis to embrace technology in order to keep serving their constituents. New virtual exhibitions, online discussions, webinars, and pedagogical tools have erupted into the museum landscape, changing the ways in which we consider engaging and interacting with audiences. For this session, we would like participants to share what new programs they were inspired to create in the midst of managing a crisis such as that of the COVID-19 quarantines and what lasting impacts, if any, those programs had on the functioning of their institution moving forward.

Leda – **Teaching and mentoring in museum studies during a pandemic**

The Covid-19 pandemic in the spring 2020 has largely and deeply impacted the former in-class delivery of instruction across the higher education system. Museum studies programs, which often integrate hands-on activities with history and theory, had to move instruction online. Internships, which are the staple of a museum studies education and the entrance ticket to the profession, had to be reshaped for online delivery or be cancelled altogether. This roundtable discussion aims at bringing together museum educators at both undergraduate and graduate levels to share approaches, challenges and practical strategies that enabled them to continue deliver the curriculum and meet accreditation standards at their institutions. The discussion of new creative approaches, made possible by online platforms for substitutive virtual experiences, are welcome as well.

Emily:

I'm not sure I have much to offer your RAAMP session, which I think is a great idea, other than to share that as I think about everyone's shifts online, I'm really focused on how **smaller museums** are managing it. I think there are two (likely more) sets of lessons to learn--the first being all the incredible programs that are possible when you have a digital resources team, a robust collections database online, and a nimble website. From museum's with those resources in hand, I think we'll learn a lot about the future of online museum programming. But then there are the rest of us, with no digital teams and far fewer resources. As I look at my own institution and what we're managing to do, I keep looking for models that feel attainable given our small staff.

Anyhow, just my two cents, and likely an issue you were already considering. Perhaps the call could simply distinguish as to whether the session will focus on larger-scale projects or present a range of approaches.

Rebecca:

A couple thoughts:

1. The text seems to focus on technology and its impact on museums – so should the title be different? E.g Museums and Technology during Crisis / Museums Managing Crisis with Technology / Technology in Museums during Crisis.... Etc. (you get the idea)
2. It is true that there are many new ways of engaging and interacting, and we should talk about what people made/use and what works. But can there be some recognition of the challenge the crisis – and the technology itself – presents to the idea of the museum? Perhaps a further sentence or elaboration of the issue from the level of utility to consideration of philosophy, mission, and even *raison d'être* would encourage possible speakers to address these “big picture” concerns. I worry that the current wording will encourage mostly solution-oriented papers without the framing conversation about what museums actually need to be post COVID-19.
3. Are you planning for a traditional panel with 4 speakers or a set of shorter lightning talks? I think that structure would be important to know as it might affect the kinds of participation we'd be looking for. For example, if we want to showcase lots of creative ideas a session with 6 or 8 10-minute talks could be great. This model was used last year with good outcomes. If we want to talk more broadly about big issues and concerns, the traditional panel might be best.

Hope that helps. Let me know how I can be of help.