Creating a Community of Museum Colleagues

Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 2:00 p.m. C.T.
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories
The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.

- Consultations
- Webinars and workshops
- Resources
www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

• On our webpage:
  • Webinars
  • Workshops
  • Grants and Fundraising
  • Helpful Resources
  • Connect and Learn
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Upcoming Free Webinars

- Ages and Stages of a Museum Career
  - Thursday, June 27, 2:00 p.m.

- Incorporating AR/VR Technology Within Your Museum
  - Tuesday, July 30, 11:00 a.m.

- Insurance Basics for Historical Collections
  - Thursday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.
Creating a Community of Museum Colleagues

Lessons from the Houston Museum Education Roundtable

Felice Cleveland
Natalie Svacina
HMER, Co-Chairs
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC)
What is a Museum Education Roundtable (MER)?
Why did Houston need a MER?
Evaluating Houston Museum Ecoscape

- Over 150 museums and cultural institutions in the Greater Houston area
- The Houston Museum District currently includes 19 museums that record a collective attendance of over 8.7 million visitors a year
Forming a Steering Committee

- Colleagues who represent diverse types and sizes of museums
- Passionate about professional development
- Mid-career professionals
- Knowledgeable about trends in the field
- Willingness to plan programming and communicate with the committee
Creating a Framework for a Steering Committee

- Six Steering Committee members (including co-chairs)
- Six events per school year
- Two planning meetings each year with the Steering Committee members
- Two-year commitment
- Acting as an advocate for the group and helping to spread the word

- Co-chairs have more responsibility with each event
- Willingness to provide extra admin support
- Year 1: SC programs hosted at home institutions
- Year 2: SC partnered with community institutions
Creating a Framework for HMER

- Open and flexible with programs, topics, and formats
- Experiment with a variety of times and days
- Regular check-ins with our community through in-person conversations, post-it note surveys, evaluations before and after events, and responses to emails

- HMER programs are based on object-based learning, but we do not turn away any interested parties
- Plan three programs at a time (Fall/Spring) including Fall Kickoff and Year End Celebration
- Balance save the dates with not overwhelming the inbox
Examples of Types of Programs
Networking
Exploring New Institutions
Speed Dating: Audience Focused

Example: Early Childhood Showcase
Speed Dating: Program Focused

Example: Making in the Museum
Institutional Deep Dive

Example: STEAM Tour and Activities
Institutional Deep Dive

Example: Nature Play
Hands on Activity

Example: Making with Technology
Panel Discussions

Example:
Social Justice
Research Sharing

Example:
Accessibility Case Study
Roundtable Discussions

Example: Real Talk, Real Money
Roundtable Discussion

Example: Summer Camp Debrief
Community Connections

Example:
ASL Focus Group
How to Connect with Members
In Person Feedback
Pre-meeting Surveys

**HMER - Social Justice Panel Discussion Pre-Questionnaire**

Please take a moment to fill out the following form to help guide our discussion on Wednesday, November 28 from 12-1:30PM.

**How do you define social justice?**
Your answer

**What social justice topics does your institution approach through exhibitions and programming?**
Your answer

1. What social justice topics do you wish your institution

**HMER Summer Camp Debrief | Survey**

Which issue would you MOST like to discuss during our Summer Camp Debrief? (please choose ONE)
- Parking
- Camp Staff Training
- Camp Content and Curriculum
- Medical Forms and Medical Care

Which issue would you LEAST like to discuss during our Summer Camp Debrief? (please choose ONE)
First Year of HMER Survey

Thank you for making our first year of HMER a great one! We’re really excited about the connections everyone has made, and we’re looking forward to a wonderful second year. As we begin planning our Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 programming, we want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to tell us about your experience with HMER. We want to make sure we’re planning effective and engaging events for our museum educators. Keep an eye out for updates on upcoming programs and events, and have a wonderful summer!

3. What was your greatest motivation for joining HMER and attending events?

☐ Networking opportunities
☐ Connect with organizations I haven’t previously worked with
☐ Visit other Museums in Houston
☐ Learn about specific topics
☐ Other (please specify)
Hello all,

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Kick-off Celebration - there was a wonderful energy and we hope to build on that to create future collaborations and programs. If you would like to take a moment and tell us a little bit more about yourself - it will help us as we plan future events - you can complete our survey [here](#). (It should just take a moment.)

We want to extend an invitation to you all for our next event:

**Making in the Museum at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**  
Friday, October 27, 2017 | 3-5PM  
4848 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Join Houston Museum Education Roundtable (HMER) members to explore informal, hands-on experiences in the

Hello all,

Just a reminder that we have a program coming up soon!

**Real Talk $$$ at Aurora Picture Show**  
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 | 3:30-5PM  
We will be hosting an honest and transparent conversation about workshop pricing structures, honorariums, creating budgets, and everything in between.

In order to prepare for this discussion and make sure we are covering you all are interested in - please take a moment to fill out the form at this link. We know that some of what we may be covering is sensitive information, so please fill out as much as you feel comfortable sharing.

Please share with any Museum Education colleagues and RSVP to [houstonmer@gmail.com](mailto:houstonmer@gmail.com).

Also - remember to save the date:  
**Early Childhood Program Showcase at Buffalo Bayou Park**  
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 | 3:30-5PM

Also be sure to [follow us Facebook](#) and find out more about upcoming programs.

Hope to see you all soon!

Best,

HMER Co-Chairs:

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday!

Just a reminder that this Wednesday is the last HMER meeting of 2018. Thanks to those have already RSVPed - there is still time if you think you can make it.

**Activism and Social Justice Panel Discussion at Art League Houston**  
1953 Montrose Boulevard | Houston, Texas 77006  
Wednesday, November 28 | 12-1:30PM (Bring Your Own Lunch)

Join a panel of museum representatives for a transparent discussion on how to create programs that address themes of social justice within our organizations. We'll discuss how to approach challenging subjects, how to balance the needs of our audiences, and we'll learn from each others successes and missteps.

**Moderator:**  
Jennie Ash, Executive Director of Art League Houston

**Panelists:**  
Sophie Asakura, Assistant Curator at Station Museum
Facebook Transition
Social Media as a Tool to Connect & Foster Community
Results After Two Years

- 215 museum colleagues are currently on the email list
- 200 colleagues from 29 institutions have attended HMER programs
- 15 programs over last two years
- 7 Steering Committee Members
- HMER has visited 13 different cultural institutions
Tips for starting your own Museum Roundtable

- Planning events at different times of day
- Realistic about opportunities
- Selective about who you chose for SC (choose based on people, not institutions)
- Be transparent about the commitment with the SC
- Be flexible and responsive to our members – open to members hosting and proposing topics
- Not afraid to make adjustments
Other MERs

- PittMER (Pittsburgh Museum Educators Roundtable) | [https://pittmer.wordpress.com/](https://pittmer.wordpress.com/)
- NYCMER (NYC Museum Educators Roundtable) | [http://www.nycmer.org/](http://www.nycmer.org/)
- MESC (Museum Educators of Southern California) | [https://www.mesconline.org/](https://www.mesconline.org/)
- CHOE (Chicago Hands-On Educators) | [https://choechicago.wixsite.com/choe](https://choechicago.wixsite.com/choe)
- PhillyMER (Philadelphia Museum Education Roundtable) | [https://phillymer.com/](https://phillymer.com/)
- dfwMER (Dallas/Fort Worth Museum Educators Roundtable) | [https://dfwmer.wordpress.com/author/dfwmer/](https://dfwmer.wordpress.com/author/dfwmer/)
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