



# Risk and Bravery:

Academic Museums Respond

Association of Academic Museums & Galleries  
Online Annual Conference  
June 15 - 26, 2020

**Stronger. Together.**

AAMG  
aamg-us.org



Dear AAMG community:

After careful consideration, the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 AAMG Annual Conference that was to take place at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. However, we are excited to announce that the conference will still take place in a virtual format, which is scheduled for June 15-26, 2020.



This is a first for AAMG, as we have always held our annual conference live and in-person since its inception in the 1980s. So this year's conference theme, *Risk and Bravery: Academic Museums Respond*, is a fitting title as we embark on this new virtual platform. So let me be the first to welcome all AAMG members and guests to our #AAMG2020 Virtual Conference. We have an exciting and inspiring program of webinar sessions, panels, roundtables, and workshops planned.

Our decision to move this flagship annual event to an online platform was not taken lightly. The health, safety, and well-being of our members, sponsors, and conference participants is of paramount importance. AAMG has been closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as federal, state, and local government agencies and officials. Due to the recommended social distancing guidelines and travel advisories and restrictions being placed on our members, sponsors, and guests that would typically attend the conference, it would not be feasible or practical to hold an in-person event.

Even though we cannot meet in person, our virtual conference will be of the same high quality that you have come to expect from AAMG's annual conferences. While you are attending the various webinars and Virtual Affinity Conversations, I hope you will make new friends and take new ideas back to your colleagues that will continue to strengthen our field.

I would like to acknowledge Craig Hadley, Katie Lee-Koven, and Dr. Natalie Marsh—this year's AAMG conference co-directors—for their many hours of work to prepare for this event. I would also like to recognize and thank the AAMG conference committee, the entire AAMG board of directors, Tracy Fitzpatrick – AAMG Vice President of Programs, and Total Management Solutions (AAMG's management company) for their contributions as well.

In addition, we would not be able to offer such a great conference format without the generous support of our various sponsors.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the KU Spencer Museum of Art and the KU Natural History Museum staff for all of their support during this transition as we move our conference to a virtual platform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Versluis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

John Versluis, President, AAMG  
[president@aamg-us.org](mailto:president@aamg-us.org)

# 2020 AAMG Annual Conference Schedule Overview

NOTE: Sessions sharing a block of time are concurrent and are not sequential. Participants will need to choose which session they would like to attend.

Session Track Key:

	Students & EMPs
	Leadership / Management
	Education / Community
	Curatorial
	Collections

WEEK 1	Monday 6/15/2020	Tuesday 6/16/2020	Wednesday 6/17/2020	Thursday 6/18/2020	Friday 6/19/2020
11:30-12:30 EDT	<p>Conference Welcome AAMG Board of Directors</p> <p>Opening Keynote: Sanchita Balachandran</p>	<p>Session: <i>Connecting Institutional Histories with Contemporary Audiences</i></p> 	<p>Panel: <i>A Risky Proposition? - Emerging Professionals &amp; Career Management</i></p> 	<p>Virtual Affinity Conversations: Engaging Membership and Fundraising</p> <p>Workshop: <i>Introduction to Collection Data Management</i></p> 	<p>Bold Stories: <i>Challenging Institutional Power Structures</i></p> 
12:30-2:00 EDT		<p>Roundtable: <i>Reaching the Rural: Collections Sharing and Outreach in Rural Communities</i></p> 	<p>OPEN</p>	<p>Roundtable: <i>Challenges, Risks, and Rewards: Integrating Common Readings with University Programs</i></p> 	<p>Roundtable: <i>Graduate Student Risks, Museum Rewards: Teaching Interdisciplinary Objects</i></p> 
BREAK, 2:00-3:00 EDT	**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!	**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!	Virtual Affinity Conversations: Virtual tours and exhibitions	**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!	**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!
3:00-4:30 EDT	<p>Panel: <i>Strategic Planning for the Academic Museum</i></p> 	<p>Session: <i>ADA@30: Expanding Accessibility</i></p> 	<p>Workshop: <i>AAM Accreditation for Small Museums</i></p> 	<p>OPEN</p>	<p>OPEN</p>
4:30-5:30 EDT	<p>OPEN</p>	<p>Virtual Affinity Conversations: Curating Post-Covid 19</p>	<p>Panel: <i>Diversity and Bravery in the Academic Museum</i></p> 	<p>Workshop: <i>Demo &amp; Presentation: Assyrian Relief Escape Room Challenge</i></p> 	<p>Session: <i>Generous Thinking in the Museum: Rebuilding Community Trust in Higher Education</i></p>  <p>Virtual Affinity Conversations: Getting savvy with social media and public relations</p>

WEEK 2	Monday 6/22/2020	Tuesday 6/23/2020	Wednesday 6/24/2020	Thursday 6/25/2020	Friday 6/26/2020
11:30-12:30 EDT			<b>Virtual Affinity Conversations:</b> Outreach at six feet	<b>Virtual Affinity Conversations:</b> Creating a personal/professional support network	
12:30-2:00 EDT	<b>Panel:</b> <i>Collections at Risk: Preservation, Conservation, and Beyond</i>  	OPEN	<b>Panel:</b> <i>Students -- Taking Risks and Being Brave</i>  	OPEN	Tentative Closing Panel Discussion
	<b>Session:</b> <i>Small Steps Towards Significant Change: Institutional Collaborations and Conversations</i>   	<b>Roundtable:</b> <i>Using Art to Build Empathy</i>   	<b>Session:</b> <i>Well-Being, Community Engagement, and Academic Art Museums</i>   	<b>Roundtable:</b> <i>Pay Your Damn Interns: Whys and Hows for Academic Museums</i>  	
<b>BREAK, 2:00-3:00 EST</b>	<b>**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!</b>	<b>Virtual Affinity Conversations:</b> New Engagement Strategies with Faculty	<b>**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!</b>	<b>**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!</b>	<b>**Don't forget to view the pre-recorded poster sessions!</b>
3:00-4:30 EDT	<b>Workshop:</b> <i>Managing Risk: Are You Prepared?</i>  	OPEN	<b>Workshop:</b> <i>Addressing Risks in Collections and Infrastructure: Freedom for Good Risk-taking</i>  	<b>Workshop:</b> <i>Art and Science Research in the Academic Museum</i>    	AAMG Annual Business Meeting (Officer Reports and Election of Officers)
	<b>Bold Stories:</b> <i>Curatorial Collaboration and Innovation</i>     	<b>Session:</b> <i>Keepin' It CIMPLE: Digital Resource Management</i>  	<b>Panel:</b> <i>Advocacy and Bravery: Academic Museum Leadership</i>  	OPEN	
4:30-5:30 EDT				<b>Virtual Affinity Conversations:</b> Moving more educational resources online -- ideas, problems, and victories	

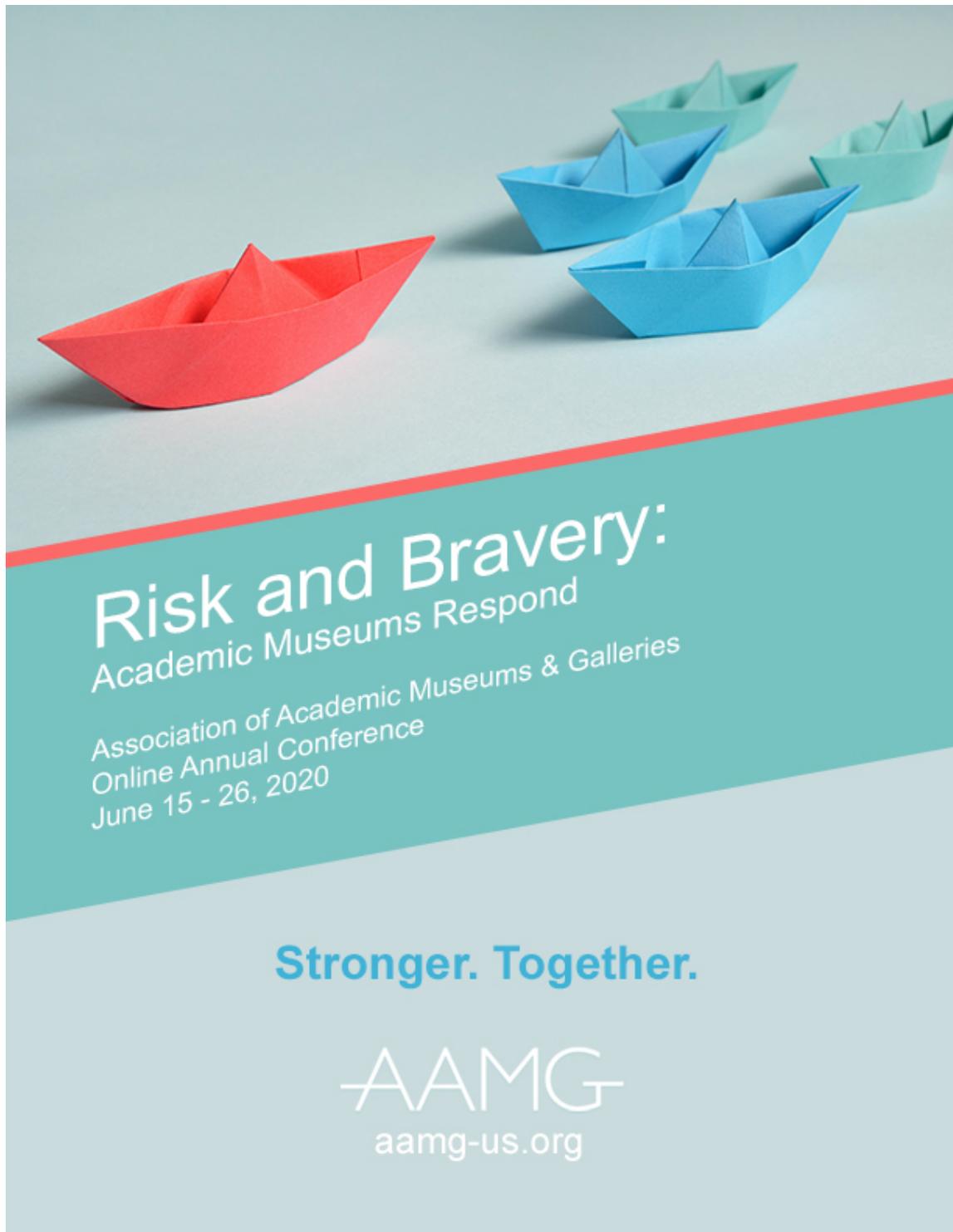
# 2021 AAMG Annual Conference

## Well-being and Sustainability

Utah State University | Logan, UT  
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art  
June 16-19, 2021



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Bitterman



## **2020 AAMG Annual Conference Program Schedule**

All times listed in Eastern Date Time. Subject to change.

Please note, sessions running during same time slots are concurrent.

## Monday, June 15, 2020

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Welcome from AAMG President John Vervluis and Opening Keynote**  
**Speaker: Sanchita Balachandran** Sanchita Balachandran is the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She teaches courses related to the identification and analysis of ancient manufacturing techniques of objects, as well as the history, ethics and practice of museum conservation. [A recent course \(Spring 2015\)](#) involved recreating ancient Greek pottery based on examples in the museum's collection. She completed her graduate work in art history and art conservation at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

### 2:00pm-3:00pm Break

### 3:00pm-4:30pm

- **Workshop: Strategic Planning for the Academic Museum** Veteran academic museum directors Natalie Marsh and John Wetenhall will provide their experience and perspectives on positioning the planning process relative to diverse and often divergent constituents. Each will share tips and tools for writing a strategic plan and other institutional planning documents and museum policies that will help guide your university museum or college gallery in ways that also dovetail with the strategic goals of your parent institution. This panel's facilitators will also share considerations and field questions and a discussion on forms of institutional planning amid a pandemic and the vast social and economic changes that are impacting all of higher education and our communities here.
  - [Dr. Natalie Marsh](#), Director, Gund Gallery, Kenyon College; AAMG Midwest Regional Representative and AAMG Conference Co-Director
  - [Dr. John Wetenhall](#), Director, George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum; AAMG Vice President, Strategic Planning and Co-Chair, Task Force for the Protection of University Collections & Affiliate Liaison

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## Tuesday, June 16, 2020

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Session: Connecting Institutional Histories with Contemporary Audiences**  
 The institutional history of most colleges and universities is often represented by collections reflective of and defined by the practices of dominant communities. How can campus museums respond responsibly and develop creative strategies that do not necessarily entail the removal of artworks or risk vandalism? Campus collections can serve as a tool to educate, refocus on individual accomplishments and promote cross-cultural understandings. This panel will discuss creative

strategies for interpreting challenging histories at Brown, Yale, Union College, and the University of Kansas.

- [Julie Lohnes](#), Director and Curator of Art Collections and Exhibitions at Union College
- [Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye](#), Educator, Academic Outreach, Yale Center for British Art
- [Celka Straughn](#), Deputy Director for Public Practice, Curatorial and Research, Andrew W. Mellon Director of Academic Programs, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas
- [Nicole Wholean](#), University Curator, Brown University
- **Roundtable: Reaching the Rural: Collections Sharing and Outreach in Rural Communities** From 2016 through 2019, Vero Rose Smith managed the Legacies for Iowa Collections Sharing Project. This privately funded program facilitated 15 high caliber art exhibitions and 137 public programs in partnership with arts organizations across the state. Brady Plunger came to the Stanley in 2017 to direct the museum's path-breaking statewide K-12 initiative, Stanley School Programs—a privately funded program begun in 2008 that brought works of art from a specially curated education collection into classrooms around Iowa. By 2019 the program reached over 80,000 students in 32 Iowa counties and presented objects from a collection of over 800 original works of art. In this roundtable discussion, we will explore strategies to support art in rural places. Facilitators will share experiences in managing statewide rural arts outreach programs for a public university, and will invite participants to discuss ways in which institutions of higher education can help art thrive outside of major cities and off campus. Facilitators will speak to funding challenges and shifting institutional priorities as well as on-the ground techniques for fostering engagement.
  - [Brady Plunger](#), Associate Curator of Education at the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art
  - [Vero Smith](#), Associate Curator, University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art

### **2:00pm-3:00pm Break**

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Session: ADA @ 30: Expanding Accessibility** 2020 is the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. During that time, how has the ADA affected museum practices and program development? Learn how the ADA has impacted the design of museum spaces, how definitions of atypical bodies or minds shape our approach to programming, planning for visitors with a range of hearing and sensory processing, how to ask questions and identify resources that can help bring life to accessible facilities, and why it matters to an aging population. Presenters will provide practical ideas for advancing museum accessibility that can enhance our understanding and empathy with each other.
  - [Scott Cryer](#), Leads DLR Group's Cultural+Performing Arts Studio

- [Adina Duke](#), Associate Director for Public Engagement at the Spencer Museum of Art (University of Kansas)
- [Lin Nelson-Mayson](#), Director, Goldstein Museum of Design, University of Minnesota
- [Elesha Newberry](#), Campus Outreach Specialist at the Michigan State University Museum
- [Meredith Peruzzi](#), Manager and Curator of the National Deaf Life Museum at Gallaudet University

#### 4:30pm-5:30pm

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Curating Post-Covid 19**

### Wednesday, June 17, 2020

#### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Panel: A Risky Proposition? – Emerging Professionals & Career Management** Before and during the pandemic, emerging professionals have undertaken brave new research and seasoned museum staff have explored ways to improve training and educational opportunities for new staff, museum studies students, and volunteers. This panel will briefly introduce recent research findings on how emerging professionals in the museum field are fairing and how new technologies like AI are empowering docents and other new teachers to educate children. Special guest Jill Hartz, immediate past president of AAMG and director emerita of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon, will share an update on her ongoing Kress-funded research for AAMG on master's programs in museum studies which seeks to understand and define core skills for museum professionals. This panel will also respond to the ongoing adjustments and changes to the academic museum field amid the unfolding crisis of COVID-19 and its impact on higher education.
  - **Moderator:** [Dr. Lana Burgess](#), Faculty Curator/Director, Museum Management Program, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina and AAMG Board Member
  - [Dr. Amy Gilman](#) Director of the Chazen Museum of Art at UW-Madison
  - [Jill Hartz](#), Director Emerita, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon
  - [Ann Kindreth](#), Education Program Manager, Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University
  - [Ashley Mask](#), doctoral candidate, Teacher's College, Columbia University and museum educator, Metropolitan Museum of Art

**2:00pm-3:00pm**

- **Break**
- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Virtual tours and exhibitions**

**3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Workshop: AAM Accreditation for Small Museums** This workshop will provide insight into the accreditation process from two points of view. The first is that of the museum staff member seeking museum accreditation or reaccreditation, and the second from the accrediting agency. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of what they need to do, and what the American Alliance of Museums' expectations are for accreditation.
  - [Craig Hadley](#), Executive Director & Chief Curator, Dennis Museum Center, Northwestern Michigan College; AAMG Treasurer
  - [Julie Hart](#), Senior Director of Standards and Excellence, Excellence Programs, American Alliance of Museums
  - [Katie Lee-Koven](#), Executive Director & Chief Curator, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University; AAMG VP-Regionals
- **Panel: Diversity and Bravery in the Academic Museum** Academic museums and galleries have often been at the forefront of higher education initiatives to critically consider institutional bias and address underrepresented audiences. This panel's presenters possess a background in expanding the accessibility and presentation of indigenous cultures, presenting undervalued artistic media like feminist and LGBTQ+ themed comic book art, opening interdisciplinary partnerships between museums and curricula in a rural New Mexico state-funded regional university serving underrepresented student populations, and developing new ways for disabled museum-goers to interact with museum resources. Diversity comes in many forms and this panel's facilitators will lead a wide-reaching conversation about the ways we may address the full range of definitions.
  - **Moderator: [Jordana Pomeroy](#)**, Director, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University; AAMG At-Large, Diversity
  - [Iris Bechtol](#), Gallery Director, Adjunct Professor of Art, Arts, Language, and Literature, Eastfield College
  - [Cynthia Ann Bettison](#), Director, Western New Mexico University Museum, Silver City
  - [Lynné Cravens](#), Gallery Manager, Texas Christian University
  - [Sebastian De Line](#), Research Associate, Indigenous Art, Agnes Etherington Art Centre
  - [Heather Parker](#), Associate Curator of Academic Outreach, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University
  - [Cassandra Velcko](#), MA Candidate, University of Minnesota

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## Thursday, June 18, 2020

### 11:30am-12:30pm

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Engaging Membership and Fundraising**

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Roundtable: Challenges, Risks, and Rewards: Integrating Common Readings with University Programs** This roundtable session will explore the processes, logistics, and potential outcomes of integrating a campus common reading program with university museum collections and programs. Discussion will center on the experiences, challenges, and rewards around choosing a common book collaboratively, evaluating museum collections relative to the contexts and subjects of the chosen book, building programming around the choice, working across administrative units to implement that programming, and assessing the outcomes. Our hope is that the discussion will yield practical suggestions and ideas for museum professionals who are hoping to improve or start the integration of museum collections and programming with common reading programs on their own campuses.
  - [Howard Graham](#), Associate Director of Academic Programs, Office of First-Year Experience, University of Kansas
- **Workshop: Introduction to Collection Data Management** The focus in this workshop is to engage the audience and work through common issues in data management. Using skills honed as a consultant, Grinstead will use participants' experience to guide them through data management frameworks, and listen and respond to questions specific to their organizations, so that participants can leave AAMG ready to begin work at home.
  - [Linda Colet](#), Sr Outreach Representative for CollectionSpace (LYRASIS)
  - [Leigh Grinstead](#), Digital and Preservation Services Consultant

### 2:00pm-3:00pm Break

### 3:00pm-4:30pm

- **Workshop: Demo & Presentation: Assyrian Relief Escape Room Challenge** At the Hood Museum of Art, three staff members from the Education and External Relations teams recently collaborated to develop an Escape Room Challenge centered on its six Assyrian Reliefs. Featuring primary source documents and archival material, the portable box game has been a hit with both campus and community audiences. Tune in to experience a few riddles and puzzles yourself, then learn how the game was developed to be both engaging and educational. (Attendees will need to use a smartphone with a QR reader during the presentation!)

- [Isadora Italia](#), Campus Engagement Coordinator, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth University
- [Vivian Ladd](#), Teaching Specialist, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire
- [Jamie Rosenfeld](#), Museum Educator, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire

## Friday, June 19, 2020

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Bold Stories: Challenging Institutional Power Structures** More and more colleges and universities are beginning to publicly debate their own institutional histories, often including painful participation in racial, gender, and other forms of discrimination. The debates about these and other abuses of power and economic inequality have similarly been at the center of academic galleries' and museums' programmatic decisions and behind-the-scenes struggles. This panel includes the inspiring and bold stories of five creative and persistent professionals who tackled challenging institutional structures and histories and are moving their organizations toward greater inclusion and human dignity, for themselves, their colleagues, and students, and for their larger communities.
  - **Moderator:** [LouAnne Greenwald](#), Director, Hilliard Art Museum, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and AAMG Board Member.
  - [Carey Champion](#), Director, Wylie House Museum, Indiana University and AAMG State Representative for Indiana. *Contemporary Art, Marginalized Voices, and Historic Spaces*.
  - [Darci Hanna](#), Assistant Curator, MassArt Art Museum, Massachusetts College of Art and Design. *Working Artists & the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.) – Compensating Exhibiting Artists*.
  - [Elesha Newberry](#), Campus Outreach Specialist, MSU Museum, Michigan State University. *Encouraging Bravery and Vulnerability Through Gallery Conversations*.
  - [Shikoh Shiraiwa](#), Current doctoral student, History and Cultural Heritage at the University of Helsinki, Finland, former Library Specialist, UCO Max Chambers Library, University of Oklahoma. *Protecting University Collections and Myself*.
  - [Pamela Tinnen](#), Lead Curator, NYU Kimmel Windows. *Beneath the Surface, The Seeds We Sow Are Growing Roots*.
- **Roundtable: Graduate Student Risks, Museum Rewards: Teaching Interdisciplinary Objects** Now in its fourth year, the Object-Based Teaching (OBT) Fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill's Ackland Art Museum represents a unique collaboration between the University's academic museum and art history department. For one year, a select doctoral candidate works at the museum for twenty hours each week; the Museum pays his or her stipend, and the department

pays tuition and benefits. This symbiotic arrangement provides fellows with crucial training and teaching experience, while building the Museum's capacity to offer exemplary object based teaching University wide. Additionally, it frees up staff time to conduct trainings, focus on strategic planning and museum-wide initiatives. Graduate fellows are trained and empowered to teach across a range of disciplinary, geographic, temporal, and even material borders. Moving outside of their comfort zones and fields of expertise deepens their capacity to engage objects in their art historical research, creates more agile educators, and trains a new generation of scholars invested in the possibilities of teaching with objects. The Museum increasingly relies on their skill and creativity. Last year, for the first time, the OBT taught the most out of any staff member, teaching roughly thirty-percent of the Museum's guided curricular visits. This roundtable will present the Ackland's model, providing a window into the experiences and development of the OBTs and the repercussions museum-wide. Discussants then will engage with questions surrounding the graduate student needs on their own campuses, and the ways in which their institutions have – or hope to – develop similar programs.

- [Elizabeth Manekin](#), Head of University Programs and Academic Projects, Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill
- [Brantly Moore](#), Object-Based Teaching Fellow, Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill
- [Alexandra Ziegler](#), Former Object-Based Teaching Fellow, Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill

### **2:00pm-3:00pm Break**

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Session: Generous Thinking in the Museum: Rebuilding Community Trust in Higher Education** In her 2019 book, *Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University*, Kathleen Fitzpatrick lays out an argument and strategies for advocating for public humanities scholarship in a moment when those fields are under threat. Her book is a public-spirited reframing of the university's "critical thinking" to be more oriented toward practices of collaboration, listening, rebuilding institutions that have lost public goodwill. Many of us who work in academic museums may recognize those strategies because we are oriented toward public, civic-minded work—and we consistently have to demonstrate our interdisciplinary values for the institution. What do museum workers have to add to Fitzpatrick's recommendations for these radical approaches to saving the university? How does the academic museum serve as a site for generosity, collaboration, public- and civic-oriented scholarship—and how might it act even more radically to do other kinds of transformative generous work beyond what we already promote? Fleming Museum of Art at University of Vermont, Michigan State University Museum and MSU Broad, Eastern Connecticut State University.

- [Alice Boone](#), Curator of Education and Public Programs, Fleming Museum of Art, University of Vermont
- [Marsha MacDowell](#), Curator of Folk Arts, Broad Museum of Art, Michigan State University
- [Yulia Tikhonova](#), Art Gallery director and Museum Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut State University
- [Michelle Word](#), Director of Education, Broad Museum of Art, Michigan State University

#### **4:30pm-5:30pm**

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Getting savvy with social media and public relations**

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### **Monday, June 22, 2020**

#### **12:30pm-2:00pm**

- **Panel: Collections at Risk: Preservation, Conservation, and Beyond**  
Collections are often a source of great concern due to an ever-present range of risks, whether due to institutional shortfalls in funding their care or the challenge of monitoring the fragile condition of objects in our care. This panel will feature the experiences of museum colleagues and experts who have undertaken unique projects to mitigate or grapple with risk and legally defend the rights of collection donors amid attempts to sell collection objects, and weigh the curatorial implications behind exhibiting deteriorating collection objects in order to showcase the analysis leading to eventual conservation and prioritization of resources. Panelists will also share their experience using 3-D documentation and printing of ancient sculpture to expand educational opportunities featuring collection objects. Panelists will also respond from their varied positions of expertise to concerns arising out of the risks presented to collections and their care due to the pandemic and temporary university and museum closures.
  - Moderator: [Tracy Fitzpatrick](#), Director and associate professor of art history, Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase; AAMG VP-Programs
  - [Eugenia Incer](#), Assistant Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami
  - [Dr. Christina Larson](#), Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Academic Engagement, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami
  - [Rebecca Manning](#), Collections Manager/Registrar, Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University
- **Session: Small Steps Towards Significant Change: Institutional Collaborations and Conversations** Sometimes our institutions and resources don't allow for, or encourage, sweeping change, even when it is needed. But

institutional collaborations and the platform of public programs can provide an avenue for colleagues to initiate a conversation, share research and concerns, and in the process make space for new voices and current issues. Practitioners from a range of international institutions discuss their small steps that have led to significant, lasting change and new directions for their institutions, redefining what radicality can look like. Yale, Skidmore, York University (CA), Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford (UK).

- [Molleen Theodore](#), Associate Curator of Programs, Yale University Art Gallery
- [Anne Gunnison](#), Senior Associate Conservator of Objects, Yale University Art Gallery
- [Rebecca McNamara](#), Associate Curator, Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College
- [Andrew Hughes](#), Deputy Head of Conservation, Pitt Rivers Museum

### **2:00pm-3:00pm Break**

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Workshop: Managing Risk: Are You Prepared?** Museums are complex organizations, and even more so when governed by a college or university. Managing risk to collections becomes even more complicated when trying to speak the language of museums to those who are not familiar. Threats to our museums, and their collections, can come from many things such as an unempathetic administrator to deferred maintenance on our buildings to the changing climate. This workshop will provide valuable information on topics ranging from managing art insurance and writing artist commission contracts to assessing the impact on collections from the buildings they inhabit to how we can slow down decay of different media and materials through preservation and conservation.
  - [Jennifer Draffen](#), Director of Collections, Exhibitions, and Publications, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art
  - [Moya Dumville](#), Risk Analysis Advisor with Protect Heritage, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.
- **Bold Stories: Curatorial Collaboration and Innovation** This exciting panel introduces five bold stories of innovation and courage from member institutions around the country. Attendees will: discover how a museum expanded a higher-education trend to extend college curricula and services into prisons and underserved communities; learn how a research-university museum and medical school collaborate on the important subject of global-health initiatives, specifically in Africa; hear how a museum of world cultures promoted greater understanding of the culture of drag-queens; and find out how a museum elevated campus dialogue about the #metoo movement through a series of sensitive conversations about sexual assault and harassment.
  - Moderator: [Kristina Durocher](#), Director, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire and AAMG Board Member.

- [Cassandra Mesick Braun](#), Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas. *Medicine, Race: Conversations on Global Health at the Museum*
- [William P. Matt](#), Deputy Director, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University. *Risk and Reward: MSU Broad Art Museum Expands Off Campus*
- [Olivia Miller](#), Curator of Exhibitions, University of Arizona Museum of Art
- [Chelsea Farrar](#), Curator of Community Engagement, University of Arizona Museum of Art. *Hobby Craft: Practicing Flexibility and Inclusion with Incarcerated Artists*
- [Elizabeth Sutton](#), Director, Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, University of Illinois. *In Her Closet: How to Make a Drag Queen Exhibit*

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## Tuesday, June 23, 2020

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Roundtable: Using Art to Build Empathy** When we invite potentially controversial ideas, exhibition content, or programming into our museum space, we also invite the opportunity for dialogues about socially relevant issues such as gender, race, ethics, and equity. In this session, our goals are to engage colleagues in:
  - Using a thinking routine that challenges bias and builds empathy through consideration of other perspectives
  - Personal and/or professional reflection through a kinesthetic making activity
  - Sharing what they have and have not found effective when facilitating challenging conversations with students or community members of all ages in the museum setting.

In the first hour of the session, participants will work in small groups and use a thinking/making routine—Using Art to Build Empathy—to guide engagement with a potentially challenging work of art. This thinking/making routine provides a structured inquiry that asks viewers to look closely, ask questions, challenges bias, and consider other perspectives. Nonprecious artmaking materials will be provided by the session hosts, with roundtable attendees responding to the following prompt: “Create a visual model that conveys the learning or shift in perspective you experienced during this process.” The session will conclude with participants sharing their object, connections, and takeaways from the session.

- [Raechel Cook](#), Curator of Academic Engagement, University of Wyoming Art Museum
- [Aimee Hunt](#), Associate Academic Curator, The Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia

### **2:00pm-3:00pm**

- **Break**
- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: New Engagement Strategies with Faculty**  
Join your colleagues for a virtual roundtable discussion centered around a focused topic. Registration for this event is limited—more details will be released within two weeks of the conference start date.
  - Moderator: [John Versluis](#), Dean of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College; AAMG President

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Session: Keepin' It CIMPLE: Digital Resource Management** To go beyond the limitations of vendor-supplied solutions, the Spencer Museum of Art has developed a suite of five applications that provide access to digital resources. The Spencer's database contains more than 200,000 records that document 45,000+ collection objects created by 9,000+ artists, manufacturers, and cultural groups. A substantial amount of this data is shared through the Spencer's internally branded Centralized Information Management Platforms for Learning and Engagement (CIMPLE) applications. CIMPLE includes five searchable databases: Collection Search, Curricular Resources Database, K-12 Lesson Plans, Spencer Mobile App, and Spencer Data Mapping. Each of the applications is designed to address a different audience need, from full access to all the Spencer's resources to object-centered teaching resources in the Curricular and K-12 Resource Databases for educators. This session will share the vision, risks, and strategic outcomes of taking on the challenge of applications development for broad public access.
  - [Robert Hickerson](#), Database Manager/Archivist, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas
  - [Jim Miller](#), Computer Science faculty at the University of Kansas
  - [Ashley B. Offill](#), Mellon Curricular and Digital Projects Coordinator and Carlson Collection Intern, University of Kansas
  - [Rachel M. Straughn-Navarro](#), K-12 State Outreach Coordinator at the Spencer Museum of Art and affiliate faculty in the Museum Studies department, University of Kansas
  - [Ryan Waggoner](#), Director of Creative Services at the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas

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## Wednesday, June 24, 2020

### 11:30am-12:30pm

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Outreach at six feet** Join your colleagues for a virtual roundtable discussion centered around a focused topic. Registration for this event is limited—more details will be released within two weeks of the conference start date.
  - Moderator: [Amy G. Moorefield](#), Director, Phillips Museum of Art, Franklin & Marshall College; AAMG Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Panel: Students — Taking Risks and Being Brave** Museum colleagues around the country continue to innovate and critically examine their work in support of students. Panelists will briefly introduce participants to their own projects to develop collaborative programs supporting the first year student experience, launching an off-campus annex maker space to expand audiences and learning opportunities, and dedicating a gallery for a flexible array of collaborative student, faculty, and staff projects. Also addressed by panelists is the need within our field to define a set of “best practices” for student curating; a now well-established practice within many academic museums and gallery programs. Those who tune-in will have the opportunity to reflect on these and other student engagement projects during current stay-at-home orders and museum and campus closures that may continue through 2021.
  - **Moderator:** [Jamaal Sheats](#), Director & Curator, Assistant Professor, University Galleries, Fisk University and AAMG Board Member and
  - [Kandis Barker](#), Curator of Education, Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University
  - [Derrick Cartwright](#), Director of University Galleries, University of San Diego
  - [Kristen Lindberg](#), Associate Curator of Education for Academic Programs, Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase
  - [John Murphy](#), Hoehn Curatorial Fellow for Prints, University of San Diego
  - [Christy Spurlock](#), Education Curator, Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University
- **Session: Well-Being, Community Engagement, and Academic Art Museums** This panel explores well-being in academic art museum practice, theory, and research. Panelists are museum and university professionals who have mobilized, led, and studied a variety of wellness experiences in museums, galleries, and community programs. The session features an overview of wellness as an emerging and bold area of arts education that is reaching marginalized

populations through museum practice. Each paper provides a focused look at the healing, restorative, and therapeutic aspects of the arts. Topics include 1) the country's first art therapy program housed in a university museum and implications for museum-based art therapy, 2) multivocal approaches to working with marginalized immigration audiences, 3) creative wellness as a dimension of student rights, and 4) a model for faculty engagement, opportunity, and interdisciplinary collaboration with rural communities. The session concludes with discussion of the risks and possibilities for university museums, wellness, and the arts.

- [Todd Burkhardt](#), Director of Campus Partnerships for the Center for Rural Engagement, Indiana University
- [Heidi Davis-Soylu](#), Director of Education, Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University
- [Amanda Potter](#), Curator of Education and Interpretation at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University
- [Amber Thieneman](#), School Outreach Manager at the Speed Museum, Louisville, Kentucky

### **2:00pm-3:00pm Break**

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Workshop: Addressing Risks in Collections and Infrastructure: Freedom for Good Risk-taking** This workshop will feature case studies and general grant writing tips by focusing on three museum professionals who leveraged grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to address risks related to preservation and access, enabling their museums to pursue their missions with more bravery and ambition. Their projects range from small rehousing efforts, to systematic storage solutions, to cataloging and digitization, to capital projects. The collection types and sizes are similarly broad, encompassing art, anthropology, and archaeology in both small and large university museums.
  - **Chair/Moderator:** [Margaret Walker Clair](#), Program Officer in the Division of Preservation and Access, National Endowment for the Humanities
  - [Charles Cobb](#), James E. Lockwood, Jr. Professor of Historical Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
  - [Teresa K. Moreno](#), Head of Operations and Associate Conservator, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
  - [Saralyn Reece Hardy](#), Marilyn Stokstad Director, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence
- **Panel: Advocacy and Bravery: Academic Museum Leadership** Museum leadership sometimes, perhaps increasingly, requires individual bravery and professional risk in the face of parent institutional and societal pressures to maintain a status quo often guided by risk aversion. This Panel bridges topics experienced by museum leaders in their day-to-day work and with their staff/interns/volunteers that include and often combine issues of racism and

bigotry; the rise of authoritarianism and the impact of rapidly shifting local, state and national political discourse; gender discrimination, sexism, sexual harassment, and Title IX; economic disparity and the growing power and influence of wealthy donors/alumni/collectors, weak or unprotected administrators and unchecked destructive politics within academia; misconduct, unethical pressures, or overreach by trustees; and cancel culture; among other timely concerns. In an era of explosive debate about power and civil rights, how are museum directors summoning bravery and assuming professional risks in the face of these challenges. This Panel is inspired, in part, by recent writing, including *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World* (2019, Anand Giridharadas), *Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators* (2019, Ronan Farrow), *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement* (2019, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey), NYT and other reporting on Operation Varsity Blues (FBI's college admissions corruption case), *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* and *The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America* (2019, Timothy Snyder), *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* (2018, Rebecca Traister), *Eloquent Rage: A Black Woman Discovers Her Superpower* (2018, Brittney Cooper), *Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era* (2013, Michael Kimmel).

- **Moderator:** [Dr. Natalie Marsh](#), Director and Chief Curator, Gund Gallery, Kenyon College and AAMG Board Member
- [Dr. Leonard Krishtalka](#), Director, Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Museum of Natural History
- [Dr. John Wetenhall](#), Director, George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum

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## Thursday, June 25, 2020

### 11:30am-12:30pm

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: How to create a personal / professional support network** Join your colleagues for a virtual roundtable discussion centered around a focused topic. Registration for this event is limited—more details will be released within two weeks of the conference start date.
  - Moderator: [Jill Deupi](#), Beaux Arts Director and Chief Curator, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami; AAMG At-Large, Task Force Co-Chair for the Protection of University Collections

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Roundtable: Pay Your Damn Interns: Whys and Hows for Academic Museums** This roundtable session will bring together AAMG's diverse

membership to discuss a singular issue- the ethical and logistical considerations of internship programs at academic museums. Following the June 2019 release of the AAMD resolution on paid museum internships, there is increasing consensus that paid internships are critical to profession-wide goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Academic museums, with close institutional ties to higher education, can provide exposure to and training in museum careers, but have unique constraints on our capacity to pay interns. This roundtable provides an opportunity to discuss these opportunities and constraints, considering the ethical imperative provided by AAMD, the relationship between paid internships and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), the pipeline to Museum Studies MAs, and our responsibilities to students at home and beyond. We offer practical suggestions for supporting paid internships from multiple funding sources, sustaining robust internship programs, and deepening student engagement during the summer and the academic year. We are a group of midcareer academic and museum professionals overseeing internship and other student programs for 1) an urban, Ivy league university, 2) a large public university, and 3) a small, rural private liberal arts college. We are all at different stages in addressing the needs of our institutions and a dedication to paid internships, and our successes and failures will inform our presentation of this topic to roundtable attendees.

- [Jessica Brunecky](#), Director of Visitor Experience and Finance for the University of Colorado Art Museum
- [Douglas Perkins](#), Associate Director for Operations and Finance at the Middlebury College Museum of Art
- [Anne Tiballi](#), Director of Academic Engagement, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

### **2:00pm-3:00pm Break**

### **3:00pm-4:30pm**

- **Workshop: Art and Science Research in the Academic Museum** Campus museums have the potential to function as interdisciplinary laboratories, but often not the capacity or endorsement from administration to support meaningful, sustained interdisciplinary research. This becomes even more difficult at the boundary of the hard sciences versus the arts and humanities. This workshop will illustrate concrete, incremental steps to take via case studies followed by a targeted workshop where teams can workshop research proposals or early-stage projects.
  - [Alison Gilchrest](#), Director of Applied Research and Outreach, Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage
  - [Katherine Schilling](#), Associate Research Scientist, Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

### **4:30pm-5:30pm**

- **Virtual Affinity Conversations: Moving more educational resources online — ideas, problems, victories** Join your colleagues for a virtual roundtable discussion centered around a focused topic. Registration for this event is limited—more details will be released within two weeks of the conference start date.
  - Moderator: [Tracy Fitzpatrick](#), Director and associate professor of art history, Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase; AAMG VP-Programs

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## Friday, June 26, 2020

### 12:30pm-2:00pm

- **Tentative Closing Panel Discussion**

### 2:00pm-3:00pm Break

### 3:00pm-4:30pm

- **AAMG Annual Business Meeting and Closing Keynote Speaker** The AAMG Annual Business Meeting takes place once per year and is open to all conference participants. Current AAMG members are entitled to voting privileges as required by our bylaws. The Business Meeting will cover:
  - Organizational grants and programs from the past year
  - A financial update from the Treasurer
  - Communications initiatives
  - Regional and state updates
  - Election results for board officers
  - Information about the 2021 AAMG Annual Conference

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