



# AAMG 2026

## Creativity: Celebrating Innovation in Campus Museums and Galleries

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### Call For Proposals

*Creativity: Celebrating Innovation in Campus Museums & Galleries*

*Hosted by:*

- *University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums*
- *University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art*

*Dates: June 9-12, 2026 | Location: Iowa City, IA*

*Creativity is central to our work as museums and galleries. It guides how we connect with our objects, communicate with our audiences, and collaborate with organizations.*

*In this year's conference, we invite proposals that explore the many dimensions of creativity found within academic museums and galleries. We recognize the complex landscape in which we operate—shrinking budgets, increased scrutiny, and competition for our audiences' attention can feel like ever-present forces. Yet, our museum community continues to adapt, persist, and thrive. We want to hear how you navigate challenges, foster resilience, and reclaim the joy of this deeply relational work. This conference is a space to share how we are:*

- *Responding creatively to external pressures while staying true to our missions*
- *Building resiliency in ourselves, our teams, and our institutions*
- *Creating space for dialogue, healing, and joy*
- *Collaborating across disciplines and communities to amplify impact*
- *Reconnecting with the purpose and passion that brought us to this field*

*We encourage proposals that detail best practices or demonstrate creative approaches to the nuts-and-bolts aspects of running a museum, including marketing & communication, finance and fundraising, board governance and advisory councils, operations and facilities management, volunteer and visitor service programs, etc. We welcome proposals rooted in the audience experience, including education, exhibitions, and public programming, and those connected to caring for collections and making collections accessible.*

*We seek proposals that focus on creativity, whether it is rooted in solitary efforts or in collaborative endeavors. Inspired by our prompt that encourages diverse interpretations, this theme is meant to be expansive and inclusive—just like the work we do.*

*Proposal Formats May Include:*

- *session*
- *panel discussion*
- *problem solving workshop*
- *facilitated roundtable*



*Submission Guidelines:*

- *Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 11:59pm*
- *Submit via: <https://forms.gle/ojSMZdJeDaN5HxzZ8>*
- *Include: Title, Abstract (250 words max), Format, Presenter(s) Bio(s)*

*Share a success story, a work-in-progress, or a lesson learned; your voice matters. Let's come together to celebrate the power of creative expression and the strength of our community. Some questions to start (but not limit!) your proposal:*

- *What out-of-the-box strategies have you used to solve challenges in your museum or gallery?*
- *How have artists and creatives influenced your work in your institution?*
- *Where have you found unexpected alliances and alignments that inform your work?*
- *How are you using creativity in your exhibitions, programming, partnerships, scholarship, or internal practices?*

*We aren't alone.*

*We remember why we do this.*

*We move forward—together.*

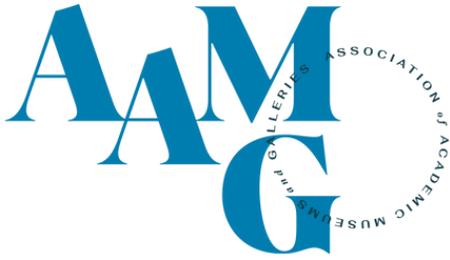
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*Have a proposal idea, but looking for more participants to fill it out? Query the AAMG listserv or social media platforms and find colleagues to connect with! Drop your note soon so that you don't miss the deadline.*

*All sessions will be 60 minutes each.*

*Items required for all proposal types:*

- 1. Contact and institutional affiliation for all presenters including bios (up to 150 words)*
- 2. Confirm that if submission is accepted you and all speakers will register and pay for conference registration. Discount codes will be provided for speakers.*
- 3. Only AAMG members can submit proposals. AAMG members may sponsor a non-member presenter that is affiliated with the topic.*
- 4. Confirm that you will provide and manage any slides or audio/visual presentations associated with your session.*
- 5. Indicate proposal type from the list above.*
- 6. Title of your proposal (15 words)*
- 7. Description of your proposal (less than 350 words) Include why your session is innovative and relevant to the conference topic or academic museum field. Include up to three learning objectives/outcomes.*



8. *Abstract (less than 100 words) This is what will appear in the conference schedule.*
9. *Intended audience (Check all that apply: Curatorial & Collections; College/University and Museum Leadership & Management; College/University and Museum Education & Community; Visitor Experience; Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and/or Inclusion; Civic Discourse; Academic Museums 101; Emerging Professionals; Students)*
10. *How does your proposal fit the AAMG 2025: Storytelling conference theme and description? (less than 250 words)*

### *Proposal Information & Guidelines*

#### **SESSION**

*Three presenters speak for ten minutes each on a focused topic, allowing time for a Q&A at the end (30 minute for presentations and 30 minutes for Q&A). Proposals must include information on all presenters. One person must serve as the chair of the session; they can be a presenter as well, or just serve as chair. Sessions are 60 minutes.*

#### **PANEL DISCUSSION**

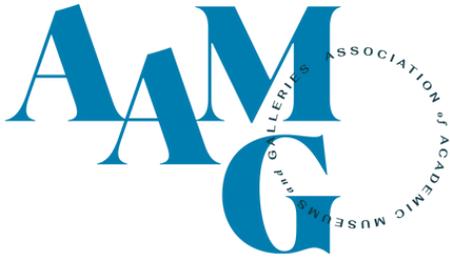
*Panels have 3–4 speakers, with one panelist or convener serving as moderator. A minimum of 15–20 minutes should be reserved for dialogue with the attendees, following the discussion. The moderator is responsible for managing slides and timekeeping. Tell us the topic, what each panelist will contribute, and how the proposal relates to the conference theme. Panel discussions, including Q&A, will be 60 minutes (45 minutes for discussion and 15 minutes for Q&A).*

#### **FACILITATED ROUNDTABLE**

*We are looking for 10 facilitators to host a small group discussion around a topic. No formal presentation is necessary. These roundtables create space for attendees to converse in a semi-structured format on a topic of mutual interest. This is a great networking opportunity! We invite you to propose a topic and explain why your skills, experiences, and interests will contribute to your success as a discussion leader, particularly as this relates to the conference's theme. As the roundtable facilitator you will offer a 15 minute overview of your topic and your personal or professional connection to it, and then facilitate a conversation with attendees. Facilitated roundtables will be capped at 10 participants.*

*Examples of Facilitated Roundtable Topics from 2025:*

- From Welcome to Well-being: Fostering Mentorship in Internship Programs*
- Innovations in Strategic Planning*
- The Next Generation: How Do We Prepare Future Museum Professionals to Defend Their Value?*
- Creating a Cohesive Project Team in Community Collaborative Exhibits*
- No Liberation Without Community: Making Space for BIPOC Students in a Predominantly White Field*



### *PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP*

*Topically focused, workshops should be centered on a real or relevant problem of practice in your organization and encourage participants to collaborate on developing questions, strategies, and ideas for implementation. Whether through presentation, group discussions, or a combination of both, participants should have some kind of take away from these sessions to try at their own institutions.*

### *Conference Planning Checklist to Get You Started*

- *Seek professional development support from your institution. Registration rates will be announced soon. Presenters and volunteers will receive a discounted registration rate.*
- *Submit a proposal before the deadline!*