**Suggested conference topics for sessions, workshops, posters**

These are gleaned from answers to MPMA’s survey of attendees at its 2015 Annual Meeting. Most of these are from the question that was asked about what types of sessions attendees would like to see on the program for MPMA 2016.

Do’s and Don’ts:

* More DIY and hands on
* More practical stuff
* Less theory on how to do something and more on what actually worked
* Continue doing the poster sessions

Trending

* Linked in – How to fully utilize it
* Maker movement
* Pinterest
* PowerPoint
* Experience Economy
* Tips for networking
* Current trends in museum study literature
* Video & Broadcasting (YouTube, Vimeo, Periscope)

Practical Solutions and Take-Aways

* Examples to follow and to learn from
* Toolkits for implementing what they’ve learned during sessions
* Take-aways that can be put into practice at their institution

Administration and Leadership

• Policy and Governance

• The Leadership Challenge

• The Board: how to recruit and orient

* Military/veteran issues
* Leadership and board development
* laws and court cases relevant to museums in the last year
* Re-branding: The hidden costs
* Engaging the next generation of visitors
* Strengthening your brand mission
* Lights, Camera, Action: Media Relations 101
* Good Governance Practices and Pitfalls for board members and museum directors
* Stump the Lawyers: ask questions of lawyers with a connection to museums:
* Copyright law
* Employment law
* Which Plans and Policies Does a Museum Really Need?

Archives and Libraries

* Finding the balance of a traditional archive in a 3d museum environment

Collaborations

* Art museum + medical school collaborations
* Community organizations & your museum (the 2015 panel was AWESOME!)

Collections

* Collections & collecting (practice & theory
* How to organize collections storage
* Hands-on preservation like how to care for silver or repair a textile, or deal with paper
* Legal and collection management issues that go beyond the basics
* Storing clothing
* Identifying and caring for different textiles.
* Options for creating micro-climate control in museum spaces
* Stronger representation from curatorial staff
* Registration-related sessions
* Collections management software
* Packing conundrums

Diversity

* Native American history
* LGBT history
* Women’s history
* Ethnic history
* As a focal point in mission
* How to talk about diversity
* How to give a tour about diversity
* How to represent the community
* Non-English speaking audiences
* Blind and hearing-impaired audiences
* Euro-centric view of Native American, Hispanic, and Asian culture in America
* Visitors with special needs
* Black Lives Matter
* Racial equity a reality in exhibits, programs, collections, communities
* Tribal museums and issues

Education

• Early STEAM Learning

* Learning styles and theories
* Balancing outreach/programs & resources

• At Risk Children

• Planning the PreK-3 Programs

• Technology and the Young Child

• Parent Collaboration

* Bilingual Education Programs
* Education Program development
* Teen programs
* New Models for Outreach Programming
* Aligning Programs with Education Standards
* Identifying & reaching your unreached audiences (it seems to be different for each of us)
* National History Day & how we can help
* Blended Learning in Museums

Exhibits

* Traveling exhibits
* Basic graphic design elements
* Exhibit design and production
* Electronic museum exhibitions
* Interpretive Writing
* Individualized (self-curated) gallery experiences
* Multi-generational galleries (on a dime)
* (related) Family friendly galleries (making ourselves welcoming)
* Creating individualized gallery experiences
* Participatory vs. Interactive Exhibits (and what defines/differentiates each)

Grants and Fundraising

* Ideas for fundraising.
* More about successful grant writing and leads to good ones to go for

Historic Preservation

* Proper care of Historic Buildings
* How to decide to close or tear down a museum’s historic buildings

How to:

* Engage the media
* Work with different types of staff
* “Speak” effectively to different kinds of groups
* “Speak” at conferences
* Read a budget
* Create a budget
* Interpret uncomfortable history
* Utilize volunteers in small museums
* Manage & Balance a Budget (it’s less common than you think)
* Evaluation!!!! (creating & incorporating effective surveys and evaluations)

Issues

* Why is history education in decline
* Why do we need to teach history?
* Is changing your institution’s name helpful or harmful
* Intellectual property

Management Topics

* Visitor Services
* Staff issues at small museums
* Meeting visitor expectations & needs
* Strategic Planning/Development
* Preparing for change of staff- How to recruit, advertise for and prepare for changes in staff
* Open" Museums (i.e. transparency & accessibility)
* The importance of an organization's mission
* Human Resources & Staffing challenges in museums
* Reaching Millennial Audiences (Museum Hack?)
* Individualized (self-curated) gallery experiences
* Creating diversified EDU programs
* How to Have a Difficult Conversation at Work
* Career conversations: best and worst moments, big picture
* What Does Your Facility Say to Your Visitors?
* Docent applications in museums (successes, failures, etc.)
* Workplace culture matters
* Interns (recruiting, projects, management, etc.)
* Vision Statements & MTOs (massive transitive purposes) & Enduring Understandings

Technology

* Technology in museums: (Exhibit, Kiosks, Social media, Apps)
* Social media for museums
* Putting an isolated museum’s collection on line
* VTS and incorporating into museum practices,
* Digital Interpretation
* Basics of social media. How to tweet/blog and create good post for facebook
* Social media platforms crash course
* Low cost low tech gadgets for practical museum applications
* Digitization initiatives, websites, archives, research, and s artworks
* Incorporating mobile media/technology (i.e. cell phones, tablets) into exhibits/programs (not just apps)
* Establishing & maintaining your web presence (website, searches, social media, etc.)
* Recognizing fads versus deep-reaching change (museum innovation vs. being reactionary)