



Conference 2022

Inside Out: Reconsidering Museum Culture

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

September 17 In-person Event | Edmonton Alberta

September 23 Virtual Conference Event





Conference 2022

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Inside Out: Reconsidering Museum Culture

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) invites you to join us in Edmonton and online for the 2022 Annual Conference as we explore how the sector is reconsidering the nature of museum work.

In response to local and global events the past few years, the museum community is reconsidering the nature of museum work. Museums are addressing societal issues through educational programs, public programs, and exhibitions. However, museums also have a role to play in advocating for change within their own sector to support museum workers and ensure long-term sustainability.

The curated program will examine issues around trust and authority, activism, and social responsibility to create a framework in which museums can see themselves as leaders and advocates for social change.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that the AMA office is located on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, and Nakota Sioux Peoples.

Join the Conversation Online

Follow and tag **@AlbertaMuseums** and use the **#AMAConference2022** hashtag.

Conference-at-a-Glance

Friday, September 16 - IN PERSON		
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Evening Networking Event	Alberta Aviation Museum 
Saturday, September 17 - IN PERSON		
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Registration	Feigel Conference Centre
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Coffee, Refreshments, and Opening Remarks	Feigel Conference Centre
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Presentation The Human Cost of Decolonization Armando Perla , Chief Curator, Toronto History Museums, City of Toronto	Feigel Conference Centre
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Annual General Meeting Registration	Feigel Conference Centre
10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Annual General Meeting	Feigel Conference Centre
11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Networking Break	Feigel Conference Centre
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Reconsidering the AMA	Feigel Conference Centre
12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Boxed Lunch and Travel to Learning Labs	Feigel Conference Centre
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Learning Labs	
	Edmonton Queer History Walking Tour and Art Gallery of Alberta Guided Tour	Dr. Michelle Lavoie , Postdoctoral Researcher; Dr. Kristopher Wells , Associate Professor & Executive Director,

	Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, MacEwan University	
Community-based Art Activism through the Memory Box Initiative	Salim Rajabi , Program Coordinator, Memory Box Initiative, Afghanistan Center for Memory and Dialogue and Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization	Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum 
Reconsidering Museums in Practice: Reflections on the Toolkit from Alberta Museums	Chloe Dennis , Reconsidering Museums Project Coordinator; Caroline Loewen , Communications Lead, Alberta Museums Association; Representatives from: Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site; Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park; Fort McMurray Heritage Village and Shipyard; Galt Museum and Archives; Millet and District Museum and Archives; Royal Alberta Museum	Royal Alberta Museum 
Incorporating Reconciliation and Inclusion at Historic Forts	Allison Graham , Programs Manager, Fort Calgary; Nicole Henbrey , Programs Coordinator, Fort Calgary	Fort Edmonton Park 

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Networking and Travel Break	Allard Hall
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Awards Ceremony	Betty Andrews Recital Hall
4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	In Reflection with Senator Bovey	Betty Andrews Recital Hall
5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Closing Networking	Allard Hall

Conference-at-a-Glance

September 23 - VIRTUAL	
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks
9:10 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	Lightning Sessions
10:10 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	Movement Break
10:20 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Lightning Sessions
11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Movement Break
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<p>Plenary Presentation</p> <p>Trust and Change: Building REAL Community Partnerships</p> <p>Janeen Bryant, Lead Facilitator, Facilitate Movement</p>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 - IN PERSON

EVENING NETWORKING EVENT

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Alberta Aviation Museum



Kick off your conference experience and join colleagues from across the province as we gather again in-person. Explore the Alberta Aviation Museum gallery, network with other museum professionals, and experience the Alberta Aviation Museum's collaboration with amiskwacy Academy, a year-long art installation on display, ᑎᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᑲᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ (we are all flying together).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - IN PERSON

REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

COFFEE, REFRESHMENTS, AND OPENING REMARKS

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The Human Cost of Decolonization

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

Armando Perla (he/him), Chief Curator, Toronto History Museums, City of Toronto



Armando Perla is the Chief Curator for the Toronto History Museums. He also collaborates with museums, cultural institutions, and communities on issues of human rights and social inclusion in Canada and abroad. He is a board member of both the International Council of Museums' (ICOM) International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas (IC-Ethics) and the Canadian Museums Association. Perla was an Assistant Professor of Decolonization and Race in Museums with the Master of Museum Studies program, Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto.

He was also part of the founding team of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and Project Leader at the Swedish Museum of Migration and Democracy. Perla also worked as an International Advisor on Museums, Human Rights, and Social Inclusion for the City of Medellin, Colombia. He has held appointments as adjunct professor both at the faculty of law at the University of Manitoba and in the Global College at the University of Winnipeg. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from l'Université Laval in Canada and a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Sweden. Prior to working in the museum sector, Perla held several roles in human rights organizations in North America, Latin America, and Europe.

AGM REGISTRATION

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

The Annual General Meeting is open to all. Separate registration to the AGM is required to vote.

NETWORKING BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

RECONSIDERING THE AMA

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

Join the AMA's Secretariat and Board of Directors as we look towards the future of the Alberta Museums Association.

BOXED LUNCH AND TRAVEL TO LEARNING LABS

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Feigel Conference Centre

Grab your individual lunch and enjoy it in the space that you are most comfortable: in the Feigel Conference Centre, outside, or even on the transportation to your Learning Lab. Transportation information can be found in your chosen Learning Lab's description.

CONCURRENT LEARNING LABS

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Edmonton Queer History Walking Tour and Art Gallery of Alberta Guided Tour

Session departs from Michael Phair Park and ends at the Art Gallery of Alberta

Dr. Michelle Lavoie (she/her), Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, MacEwan University

Dr. Kristopher Wells (he/him), Associate Professor & Executive Director, Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, MacEwan University

The Edmonton Queer History Project (EQHP) is a collaborative community initiative, designed to help tell 2SLGBTQ+ stories by documenting what queer life was like in Edmonton over the past 50+ years. Most of these histories are undocumented or known only to a few members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two spirit, and queer communities. Seldom are queer lives or culture included as part of Edmonton's official history, school curricula, or public discourse. EQHP intends to help break this silence. Join EQHP on a guided walking tour of Edmonton's downtown, visit some 2SLGBTQ+ landmarks, and learn about Edmonton's queer history. Following EQHP's walking tour, participants will be led on a guided tour of the Art Gallery of Alberta.

This Learning Lab is intended for museum professionals at all levels who are interested in learning more about untold queer history and how to respectfully share similar stories in their own institutions.

***Please note that this Learning Lab will require participants to walk and stand for extended periods. Transportation will be provided back to the main Conference site.**

Meet the Speakers



Dr. Michelle Lavoie (she/her) is a postdoctoral researcher with MacEwan University. Michelle's recently completed doctorate in Educational Policy Studies explored the potential of art-based mentorship to engage and support 2SLGBTQ+ youth. Michelle's current work focuses on using arts-based, narrative, and community-based research approaches to engage communities. Her research translates and mobilizes knowledge through participatory and publicly accessible platforms (e.g., public art exhibitions and interactive websites) to support 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and communities and inform inclusive policy development. Michelle joined the Edmonton Queer History Project in 2015, acting as the curator for the Art Gallery of Alberta's inaugural and subsequent travelling exhibitions.



Dr. Kristopher Wells is an Associate Professor and the Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for the Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth at MacEwan University. His scholarly work specializes in sexual and gender minority youth, health, education, sport, and culture. Dr. Wells is one of the driving forces behind the creation of many ground-breaking initiatives including PrideTape, Camp fYrefly, and NoHomophobes.com. Dr. Wells is a frequently invited national and international speaker on sexual and gender minority youth issues.

He has served as an expert scientific consultant to the Government of Canada, Canadian Senate, Canadian Museum of Human Rights, Canadian Teachers' Federation, RCMP, Public Health Agency of Canada, UNESCO, World Health Organization, and many provincial and municipal governments across Canada. Currently, Dr. Wells serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of LGBT Youth, which is the world's leading research publication on LGBT youth. Dr. Wells is also the founder and project lead for the Edmonton Queer History Project, which is a community-engaged research project supported by the MacEwan Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity.

Community-based Art Activism through the Memory Box Initiative

Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum, Historic McKay Avenue School

Salim Rajabi, Program Coordinator / Theatre and Art based activism, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO), Afghanistan Center for Memory and Dialogue (ACMD) / Memory Box (MB) Initiative

The Memory Box (MB) Initiative is an art-based creative journey into the past and a quest for a better future. Created in 2011 by the Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO), the Memory Box Initiative was inspired by Salim Rajabi's personal history and his participation in the Theater of the Oppressed / Forum Theatre Workshop.

Seeking to break the cycle of violation and tragedy in Afghanistan, the Memory Box Initiative arose out of the need to provide a space for the victims of four decades of violence in Afghanistan to finally tell their stories. The Memory Box Initiative used community-based art activism, creating bottom-up narrations of loss and resilience to advance human rights, conflict resolution, and peace-building.

In 2020, the Memory Box Initiative was turned into a permanent exhibition at the War Victim Museum / Afghanistan Center for Memory and Dialogue (ACMD), but in the following year, AHRDO was closed and the ACMD was buried. Salim and his colleagues were forced to flee because of their past activity and work in the region.

Join Salim as he shares the history of the Memory Box Initiative, how to create a similar initiative, and how to put similar projects into practical application.

This Learning Lab is followed by the opportunity to explore the Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum in the Historic McKay Avenue School.



PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

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archivesmuseum.epsb.ca

Meet the Speaker

Salim Rajabi was born in Afghanistan. At the start of the civil war, his family left Afghanistan for Pakistan, where he lived more than half of his life as a refugee. In Pakistan, Salim received his MA equivalent in Islamic Law. In late 2001, after the fall of the Taliban regime, Salim's family returned to Afghanistan, where Salim worked with many different organizations, such as JRU-PAC, SORA and UNAMA in Kabul.

In 2009, he helped with the establishment of the Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO) and become one of the first Playback and Theatre of the Oppressed practitioners in Afghanistan.

Over the course of a decade and a half, Salim has made significant contributions to grassroots level institution-building, democratic and civil society developments, the promotion of human rights and women's rights, and peace-building and transitional justice.

When Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in August 2021, Salim and his family were faced with threats to their lives and fled to Canada.

Reconsidering Museums in Practice: Reflections on the Toolkit from Alberta Museums

Royal Alberta Museum

Pilot Sites:

Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site

Galt Museum and Archives

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

Millet and District Museum and Archives

Fort McMurray Heritage Village and
Shipyard

Royal Alberta Museum

Moderators:

Chloe Dennis (she/her) Reconsidering Museums Project Coordinator, Alberta Museums Association

Caroline Loewen (she/her), Communications Lead, Alberta Museums Association

What do Canadians see as the value of museums for them, their communities, and for Canada? *Reconsidering Museums*, a three-year national project, sets out to answer this question. Through data collected as part of the project's research and community engagement campaign, *Reconsidering Museums* offers a rearticulation of the value of museums and a rebrand of the sector to better align with public perceptions and expectations of the sector.

The Canadian public sees museums as trusted institutions for learning about and preserving our shared history. They see them as places that are safe, accessible, and valuable to Canadian society, but the public also recognizes that museums have not always been representative of their diverse communities. Museums, as colonial institutions, have at times perpetuated systemic issues like racism and cultural hegemony, socio-economic inequality, and environmental degradation. Along with calls for better representation, younger generations want museums to use their voice to advocate for social change more actively. Museums have a role to play in addressing societal issue like truth and reconciliation, the climate crisis, and racial injustice.

In response, *Reconsidering Museums* is creating tools for museums and heritage sites to shift the way that they work; to support them in advocacy, not only for the sector but also for causes that are aligned with their vision and mission; and to better communicate their role and value in a changing Canada.

With a focus on practical implementation of the toolkit, this session will explore the experience of six Alberta pilot sites as they helped to develop messaging and test the forthcoming resources.

This Learning Lab is beneficial to all museum workers, but particularly beneficial to those who work in communications and advocacy and will be followed by the opportunity to explore the exhibits at the Royal Alberta Museum.



ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM

Meet the Moderators



Chloe Dennis is the Project Coordinator for *Reconsidering Museums*. She holds a BA and MA from Carleton University, in History and Public History, respectively. Chloe is passionate about local histories, digital storytelling, and museums. Her most recent academic pursuits focused on cemeteries and cemetery tourism. In her professional career, Chloe has worked in archival, research, and collections roles within federal government departments, at Carleton, and most recently at Ingenium (Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation).



Caroline Loewen is the Communications Lead for the Alberta Museums Association and the Project Lead for *Reconsidering Museums*. She is a curator, writer, and museum worker. She has over 15 years' experience working in museums in collections, programming, and curatorial. She is passionate about helping museums become more inclusive, accessible, and engaging spaces, that promote perspective taking and dialogic learning, and are advocates for social change in their communities.

Incorporating Reconciliation and Inclusion at Historic Forts

Indigenous Peoples Experience, Fort Edmonton Park

Allison Graham (she/her), Programs Manager, Fort Calgary

Nicole Henbrey (she/her), Programs Coordinator, Fort Calgary

Fort Calgary is a national historic site with a complex story to share. The North West Mounted Police (NWMP) arrived on the land at Fort Calgary 147 years ago. Today we acknowledge this arrival as an act of colonization. We also recognize that this site where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet has been a place of Indigenous significance since long before the NWMP landed here. This site has also been a train yard, and in more recent times in the centre of two diverse urban and downtown communities, the East Village and Inglewood in Calgary. These layered stories bring complexity which can be unraveled through critical shifts towards shared authority, vulnerable and actionable discussions, and enacting systemic change.

In this session, public programs team members will share the many questions Fort Calgary has grappled with, and the procedures and changes implemented in response to the never-ending journey towards reconciliation, accessibility, and inclusion at Fort Calgary. Key questions explored will include: How does institutional leadership support systemic changes? What is the settler role in reconciliation? How do we know when something is or is not our story to tell? How do we adjust our pricing models and community partnerships to continue to remove barriers to access? Further insights will include the value of vulnerability, its role in creating change, and how we hold each other and ourselves accountable for a better future for all.

This Learning Lab is a great opportunity for reflection and action from all members of an organization, from entry-level to senior staff, as all museum staff can contribute to conversations of decolonization. The strategies shared are great for medium-sized museums.

Following Fort Calgary's presentation, participants will have an opportunity to explore the Indigenous Peoples Experience at Fort Edmonton Park. Interpreters are available throughout the building to introduce the space, answer any questions, and at the end, an interpreter will facilitate a final discussion in the gathering space around residential schools and reconciliation. This is a safe space and Fort Edmonton Park encourages hard conversations.



Meet the Speakers



Allison Graham completed a Ph.D. in history from the University of Toronto and is largely interested in exploring how colonial histories intersect with gender and sexuality. At Fort Calgary, she brings a critical lens and creative flair to all elements of public programming including visitor experience, tours, and community engagement initiatives. She is Fort Calgary's lead public historian. She is an instructor at the University of Calgary Department of History and a past team member of the Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre.



Nicole Henbrey is a talented storyteller with a passion for sharing knowledge about the land. She is Tlingit/Southern Tutchone and an experienced public speaker, educator, beader, and budding raven's tail weaver, born and raised in Calgary on Treaty 7 Territory. Her work is rooted in shifting the way in which we, as Canadians, speak about our shared histories and how we can use that moving forward as a society.

NETWORKING AND TRAVEL BREAK

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Allard Hall

AWARDS CEREMONY

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Betty Andrews Recital Hall

The Awards Ceremony celebrates the exceptional work and innovative thinking of the Alberta museum community by recognizing the 2022 Leadership Awards recipients and the graduates of the Certificate in Museum Studies Program, and honouring the 2022 recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Award and the Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility.

IN REFLECTION WITH THE HONOURABLE PATRICIA BOVEY, SENATOR

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Betty Andrews Recital Hall

Patricia Bovey (she/her), FRSA, FCMA



We invite you to close out the in-person conference day and reflect on the future of the museum sector with a talk by Senator Patricia Bovey.

Patricia Bovey was appointed to the Senate of Canada in November 2016 as an Independent Senator from Manitoba. She has served on the Foreign Affairs & International Trade Committee, as well as being the former Deputy-Chair of the Transport and Communications Committee, and former Deputy-Chair of the Special Senate

Committee on the Arctic. She is Chair of the Senate Artwork and Heritage Advisory Working Group, Deputy Chair of the Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee, and a member of the Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration Committee.

Prior to her appointment to the Senate, as a Winnipeg-based gallery director, art historian, professor and arts and culture management consultant, Bovey was Director of the Winnipeg Art Gallery (1999-2004) and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1980-1999) and was appointed the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Director Emerita in 2014. Founder of St. Boniface Hospital's Buhler Gallery, the University of Winnipeg's Arts and Culture Management Program, and MA in Curatorial Practice, she was the Buhler Gallery Director / Curator from its 2007 inception to 2016, and University of Winnipeg Adjunct Professor of Art History, 2011-2017. She is the recipient of numerous awards and has served the community on various boards in higher education and the arts and culture sector.

As the first art historian, gallery professional, and museologist to be appointed to the Senate, Bovey has worked on all issues, from legislation to committee work, primarily through the lens of arts and culture, and from her regional perspective. She has spoken in the Chamber about the impact of the arts, especially those on health, the elderly community and crime prevention. Her goal is to ensure the voice of arts and culture is heard, in the Senate and in every sector of society.

CLOSING NETWORKING

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Allard Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 - VIRTUAL

OPENING REMARKS

9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.

Zoom

LIGHTNING SESSIONS

9:10 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.

Zoom

Front-of-House Charter for Change - Museums Association, UK

Reconciliation Toolkits for Museums - Canadian Museums Association

An Anti-Racist Approach to Volunteering - VolunteerConnector, by the Volunteer Centre of Calgary

Advocacy Outside Your Museum - Hatlie Group

MOVEMENT BREAK

10:10 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

LIGHTNING SESSIONS

10:20 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Zoom

Reconsidering Museums Toolkit - Alberta Museums Association

Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal Handbook - Heritage Calgary

Gender and Sexuality Inclusion Toolkit for Museums, Heritage and Cultural Institutions - BC Museums Association

TBC - Global Philanthropic Canada

MOVEMENT BREAK

11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

PLENARY PRESENTATION

Trust and Change: Building REAL Community Partnerships

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

Janeen Bryant (she/her), Lead Facilitator, Facilitate Movement



An advocate and catalyst for building organizational capacity, Janeen Bryant is an inter-sectional educator, facilitator, and community engagement consultant. Bryant previously led education and dialogic programs as the Vice President of Education for Levine Museum of the New South and community coaching as the Southern Regional Director for Leadership for Educational Equity. She is also the founder of Facilitate Movement, a consultancy that builds non-profit organizational capacity, and co-founder of CREED, the Center for Racial Equity in Education. Selected as a 2019 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar and 2021 Black Voices for Black Justice Award recipient, Janeen considers herself an architect building a more just and equitable world.



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