2020 Smithsonian Affiliations Virtual Conference Series  
*September 23-24; October 7-8; October 21-22; November 9-10*

**Wednesday, September 23**

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
**IDEA STARTER SESSION: What is the Role of the 21st-Century Museum?**  
Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices, Digital First, Network Building  
*Eduardo Díaz, Director, Smithsonian Latino Center*  
*Terri Freeman, Director, National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis, Tennessee)*  
*Sarah Pharaon, Principal, Dialogic Consulting*  
*Moderator: Myriam Springuel, Director, SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations*  
Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III will offer pre-recorded remarks on the role of museums and cultural organizations today, in the age of the “dual pandemics”—COVID-19 and racial injustice. Afterwards, a moderated discussion with three conversationalists will reflect on the Secretary’s remarks and explore the question, How do we respond to the challenges of a global pandemic, racial injustice, and political divisiveness in ways that enable our visitors to take productive action?

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- **Creative Strategies for Leveraging Your Partnership with the Smithsonian**  
  Track: Network Building  
  *Mariruth Leftwich, Director of Learning, Senator John Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)*  
  *Irene Porro, Director, Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, Framingham State University (Framingham, Massachusetts)*  
  *Leslie A. Przybylek, Senior Curator, Museum Division, Senator John Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)*  
  Two Smithsonian Affiliates will discuss real-world strategies for using Smithsonian resources and the Affiliate network for more impactful approaches to public programming, exhibition development, object loans and more. Discussion will focus on pre- and post-pandemic efforts to catalyze efforts to foster greater collaboration between departments internally, exploring strategies for identifying new channels for collaboration within the Smithsonian network; addressing some of the barriers that affect efforts to grow and diversify audiences. Speakers will also discuss how they introduce pressing and/or current issues in their programming. Participants will have the opportunity to join affinity groups to discuss, during a breakout session, creative collaboration strategies that are relevant to one of these areas: Public Programs, Loans and Exhibitions, Students and Teachers.

- **Re-Thinking Youth Engagement: How Museums can (and should) Co-Create with Teen Audiences**  
  Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First  
  *Abby Pfisterer, Education Specialist, National Museum of American History*  
  *Maria Sanchez, Media Producer, National Museum of American History*  
  This session will look at the youth programming model developed by the National Museum of American History during the creation of the museum’s video series *Young People Shake Up Elections (History Proves It)*. Panelists will share how this significant youth voting project was developed in full collaboration with the intended audience—teens. This project can provide a model and launching pad for other organizations to catalyze their own work with, by, and for teen audiences.
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Resource Fair
All Access ticket holders can access these Zoom chats during the Fair. Click on the links in their Virtual Table page to join.

- YIVO Institute for Jewish History
- National Museum of American History
- Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center
- Smithsonian Associates
- Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Addressing Historical Truth in a Divided 21st-Century Society: A Collaborative Problem-Solving Session
Discussing How We Use Collections to Provide Accurate Museum Experiences

Track: Amplifying Voices
Kelly Falcone, President & CEO, Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland, Ohio)
Dennis Barrie, Director of Experience Design, Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland, Ohio)

Museums, historical societies, and historic sites have a responsibility to provide accurate experiences that benefit our society. We use our collections to share stories about the American experience. Increasingly, many museum collections as seen through the lens of the 21st century are controversial, representing a shared history that is troubling, tragic, and unresolved. Using real examples, session leaders will share their experiences and open conversation for an honest, open discussion about mission and our collective responsibility to the truth, when so much of the American experience, as seen through our eyes, is on the wrong side of history.

Social Media in 2020: Balancing Strategy and Self Care

Track: Network Building, Digital First
Stephanie Johnson-Cunningham, Co-Founder and Creative Director, Museum Hue (New York, New York)
Connie Dyson, Marketing Communications Manager, National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis, Tennessee)
Jessica Johnson, Social Engagement Producer, Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture
Adriel Luis, Curator of Digital and Emerging Practice, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
Holly Stewart, Social Media Coordinator, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

A moderated panel of social media managers and digital engagement specialists discuss how 2020 has illuminated the importance of their roles. As buildings closed, social media managers became the new front-of-house, tending to general inquiries, acting as crisis communicators when faced with verbal violence online, and navigating a 24/7 work environment. Dealing with dual pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism, the role of the social media manager is more of a balancing act than ever. How are we navigating this increasingly challenging space? What advice is there for turning hate speech into teachable moments? What are some self-care methods that we can all practice at home for the increasingly digital world we all find ourselves in?
Thursday, September 24
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
Special guest: Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar, Smithsonian Acting Under Secretary for Education

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
ONLINE WORKSHOP: Teaching Youth About the Science of COVID-19 Protective Behaviors
Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First
Katherine Blanchard, Program Manager, Leadership Development and International Programming, Smithsonian Science Education Center
Carol O'Donnell, Director, Smithsonian Science Education Center
The Smithsonian Science Education Center, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the InterAcademy Partnership has developed COVID-19! How can I protect myself and others?, a new rapid-response guide for youth ages 8–17. Through a set of seven cohesive student-led tasks, participants engage in the activities to answer questions previously defined by their peers. The questions explore the impact of COVID-19 on the world, how to practice hand and respiratory hygiene and physical distancing, and how to research more information about COVID-19. Participants in this workshop will learn how to bring these activities to their communities.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Executive Leadership Strategic Plan Feedback Meeting (Affiliate leadership only)
Join Myriam Springuel, Director, SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations, to learn about the dynamic new strategic plan that will guide the work of both SITES and Affiliations in the coming years. There will be time for Q&A and discussion among participants about how you see your work reflected in the plan.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
ONLINE WORKSHOP: Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative: How to Help Your Community Before and After a Disaster
Track: Network Building
Stacy Bowe, Training Program Manager, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative
Ella Weiner, Program Associate, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative
Family heritage connects us to our past, grounds us in the present, and helps us imagine our future. The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative’s (SCRI) public outreach program, Saving Your Family Treasures, is a partnership-seeking program and its mission is to provide post-disaster care and handling information directly to the communities that need it. SCRI has offered Saving Your Family Treasures demonstrations in Nebraska, Iowa, Florida, Louisiana, and many other places while working with FEMA and several SI Affiliates. Attendees of this session will see some of the information presented during these workshops and can learn how SCRI staff will work with interested Affiliates in setting up workshops in order to help communities that have been affected by disasters.

CANCELLED 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
Please keep a lookout in your inbox for updated information should we be able to reschedule this meeting.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Affinity Group Networking
• Art Organizations
Wednesday, October 7
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
IDEA SESSION:  How can museums and cultural organizations support racial equity?
Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices, Digital First, Network Building
Diana Abouali, Director, Arab American National Museum (Dearborn, Michigan)
Ann Chinn, Executive Director and Founder, Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project
Joanne Jones-Rizzi, Vice President of Science, Equity, and Education, Science Museum of Minnesota
Chris Newell, Executive Director and Senior Partner to Wabanaki Nations, Abbe Museum (Bar Harbor, Maine)
Linda Norris, Global Program Manager, International Sites of Conscience
In this Idea Starter session, Joanne Jones-Rizzi will offer thoughts on the question, How can museums and cultural organizations demonstrate racial equity—inside and out? Afterwards, Linda Norris will moderate a discussion with Sites of Conscience partners to explore how they are addressing racial equity and responding to Black Lives Matter and calls for more equity and inclusion in their communities.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Equity and Justice as a Mission
Track: Amplifying Voices
Diana Abouali, Director, Arab American National Museum (Dearborn, Michigan)
Elizabeth Barrett-Sullivan, Curator of Exhibits, Arab American National Museum
For the last two years, staff at the Arab American National Museum (AANM) have collaborated on institutionalizing a committee dedicated to ensuring that equity and justice are fully present in all areas of its work. As a community-based institution, the ethos of equity and justice at AANM seems obvious, however, AANM had never fully articulated that ethos to its diverse audiences or to other communities of color, who are frequent collaborators and share many of the same issues and concerns in the realm of equity and justice. Panelists will share successes and challenges of the work that has taken place over the past two years to include equity and justice across all departments of the museum. Throughout the session, panelists will explore the following questions: Why is equity and justice work integral to all museums, not only community-based institutions? Why focus on equity and justice and not diversity work, and what’s the difference? Participants will leave with ideas for implementing this work at their institutions.

MoMS Gone Wild: How the Smithsonian, a Museum, a Public Library, and a College Pulled Together an Exhibition
Track: Amplifying Voices, Network Building
Lesley Wright, Director, Grinnell College Museum of Art (Grinnell, Iowa)
Monica Chavez-Silva, AVP, Grinnell College Community Enhancement and Engagement
Sarah Smith, Director of Outreach Programs and Events, Grinnell College Community Enhancement and Engagement
Selwyn Ramp, Assistant Project Director, SITES Museum on Main Street
Monique Shore, Systems Administrator, Drake Community Library
Grinnell Works is a crowd-sourced exhibition created by Grinnell College, Drake Community Library, and members of the Grinnell community, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street program. In this session, panelists will share the original idea—crowdsourcing and active citizen engagement—and then how COVID-19 changed the exhibition landscape during the
Panelists will share how Smithsonian support, collaborative leadership, and nimbleness during a pandemic resulted in amplifying diverse and unheard voices through crowdsourcing of content.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Virtual Resource Fair  
All Access ticket holders can access these Zoom chats during the Fair. Click on the links in their Virtual Table page to join.  
- Smithsonian Affiliate Membership Program  
- National Museum of American History  
- Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
CONCURRENT SESSIONS  

What Happens When an Organization Evaluates Its Own Learning?  
Track: PK-12 Education, Network Building  
Colleen Marzec, Chief of Science Learning/Content Development, National Museum of Natural History  
Efrain Tejada, Acting Chief of Learning Venues and Visitor Experience, National Museum of Natural History  
Randi Korn, Founding Director, RK&A  
While museums have long focused on visitor learning, the National Museum of Natural History recently became interested in the learning that happens within the organization. The idea came about at the five-year anniversary of Q?rius, the museum’s science learning center whose development pushed museum staff in new directions – creatively and collaboratively. They sought to explore, uncover, and describe learning that happens within the organization from three vantage points: personal, departmental, and leadership. This session will cover the basics of the field of organizational learning, the evaluation’s methods and findings, and early insights into how NMNH is applying the findings to strengthen the organization and its PK-12 and other programs. Presenters will also share how the evaluation informed their decision making while the museum was physically closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Museums Respond: How Storytelling and Collecting Helps a Community Heal and Find Comfort During Times of Disaster and Trauma  
Track: Amplifying Voices, Network Building  
Eric Stanley, Associate Director and Curator of History, Museum of Sonoma County  
Kiran Singh Sirah, President, International Storytelling Center  
This session will discuss the ways organizations are thinking about their role as a place for community connection, expression, and healing during times of political unrest and/or natural disasters. Hear about “From the Fire: A community Reflects and Rebuilds,” the exhibition at Museum of Sonoma County that grew out of the community’s response after the 2017 wildfires in California. Next, hear how the International Storytelling Center is helping healthcare workers build resilience and camaraderie through a storytelling program. Participants will leave with ideas for connecting with their own community.

Thursday, October 8  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)  
Special guest: Anthea Hartig, Director, National Museum of American History
1:00- 3:30 p.m.
ONLINE WORKSHOP: Virtual Field Trips that Engage, Reinforce, and Connect Beyond Museum Walls
Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First
Annie Mumgaard, Virtual Learning Coordinator, University of Nebraska State Museum
Jennifer Ruyle, Virtual Educator, University of Nebraska State Museum
Daniel George, Virtual Educator, University of Nebraska State Museum, Ashfall Fossil Beds
The University of Nebraska State Museum extends its science education beyond geographical and social boundaries, making its collections and exhibits accessible to all through virtual field trips that have connected students in rural Nebraska as well as 17 states and Canada. After schools and museums’ doors closed because of COVID-19, virtual field trips and virtual learning became even more in-demand. In this workshop, speakers will share and show what they have learned about creating viable virtual education programs and how those programs have evolved since COVID-19 changed the learning environment.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
ONLINE WORKSHOP: Engaging Schools When They Can't Come To You: A Multi-pronged Approach To Meeting Teachers and Kids Where They Are...Before, During, and After the Pandemic
Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First
Amy Oliver, Public Affairs Specialist, Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Even before COVID-19, decreasing funding for Title 1 and non-Title schools means schools can’t just “go” on field trips. As COVID-19 closed schools, a whole new set of issues came to the forefront—high-speed internet is not in every home in America and virtual reality is the new reality. Whipple Observatory devised a multi-pronged approach to meeting teachers and kids where they are, even if it's a county, state, or country away. This session explores the successes (and acknowledges the struggles) of online learning connections, mailable teacher kits, in-classroom teaching, and social media streaming. Participants will break out into groups to discuss these challenges and help each other brainstorm ways to engage their own communities when “the wheels on the bus don’t go.”

CANCELLED 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
Special guest: Eduardo Diaz, Director, Smithsonian Latino Center

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Affinity Group Networking:
• Decolonization & Repatriation
• Living Collections
• Non-Collecting Organizations

Wednesday, October 21
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
IDEA SESSION: What is The Role of Cultural Institutions in Supporting Digital Equity?
Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices, Digital First, Network Building
In this Idea Starter session, we'll explore issues of digital equity—ensuring that all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society. We’ll examine the question, “How can museums and cultural organizations support digital equity and inclusion?” with leaders from our field and beyond.
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

De-Centering Dominant American History Through the Lens of the Transcontinental Railroad
Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices
Jessie Aucoin, Education Specialist, National Postal Museum
Abby Pfisterer, Education Specialist, National Museum of American History
Andrea Kim Neighbors, Education Specialist, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
Using the Transcontinental Railroad as a lens, panelists will discuss how museums and cultural sites across the nation grapple with challenging and complex histories that have significant relevance to issues today. Panelists will discuss how they approached intentionally de-centering the dominant, white American history that is typically told of the Transcontinental Railroad as the basis for larger discussion and in order to help today’s PK-12 students learn critical analytical skills, build empathy, and use dialogue to find common ground with others.

Transcription Boom: How Crowdsourcing Projects are Increasing Digital Engagement
Track: Network Building, Digital First
Caitlin Haynes, Coordinator, Smithsonian Transcription Center
Melissa de Bie, Director of Collections Access, Senior Registrar, History Colorado
When museums shuttered in March 2020, both History Colorado and the Smithsonian Transcription Center staff noticed a drastic uptick in online traffic to their websites. What was going on and who was this new audience engaging with their collections? Both organizations have active crowdsourcing projects developed as a collaborative way to digitally enable and increase public engagement with their digitized content. But neither organizations expected the sudden increase and importance of their crowdsourcing projects. In this session, learn what implementing and sustaining a crowdsourcing project looks like before and during a worldwide pandemic. Speakers will share best practices, challenges, and tips for embarking on a crowdsourcing project of your own.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Resource Fair
All Access ticket holders can access these Zoom chats during the Fair. Click on the links in their Virtual Table page to join.
- Smithsonian Libraries
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
- Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center
- National Air and Space Museum
- National Museum of Natural History
- CANCELLED- Access Smithsonian

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Multi-Media Story Projects that Bring Urban and Rural Youth Together
Track: Amplifying Voices, Digital First
Carol Harsh, Associate Director, SITES Museum on Main Street
Robbie Davis, Project Director, SITES Museum on Main Street
SITES’ Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program uses digital storytelling as a community engagement tool to amplify youth voices. Rural communities hosting MoMS exhibitions engage youth to create multi-media story projects rooted in local history. MoMS exhibitions provide a national context from which youth participants conduct research and interviews. This experience bridges age gaps and leads to surprising outcomes. Youth feel valued. Relationships are strengthened between youth, schools, and
historical cultural organizations. And, youth become more interested in history. This session’s conservation explores ways to collaborate on joint youth initiatives—capturing stories from youth in urban areas, convening conversations about the urban/rural divide, or engaging youth in joint projects about democracy and citizenship.

**Fostering Change Through Difficult Discussions at Every Age**

**Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices**

*Samantha Alberts, Manager of Community Learning, San Diego History Center*

*Marisol Vasquez, Independent Contractor*

Engaging in dialogue around -isms for any age can be challenging; however, having these discussions is important for making change. Museums have a responsibility to challenge and support guests in breaking through discomfort and practicing empathy. In this session, participants will actively work through a series of questions aimed at addressing some roadblocks to impactful conversations, how museums and teachers can work together towards a more welcoming and inclusive environment, and the role museum professionals play in supporting and promoting meaningful programming with social justice at the core. Panelists will share current programming which engages K-12 and adult groups in meaningful dialogue around the history of discrimination based on race and ethnicity, and gender or sexual orientation. Participants will leave with new ideas and potential collaborators, with the goal of creating more inclusive and thought-provoking museum experiences.

**Thursday, October 22**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)

*Special Guest: Lisa Sasaki, Director, Asian Pacific American Center*

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

ONLINE WORKSHOP: **Big Ideas, Small Children: Techniques and Language for Authentically Engaging Children in Complex Topics Using Museum Objects in Developmentally Appropriate Ways**

**Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First**

*Brooke Shoemaker, Museum and Early Learning Specialist, Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center*

No one is ever too young to experience museums, appreciate diversity, or tackle some of the world’s biggest problems, even if it’s in a small way. During this virtual workshop, attendees will participate in several sample learning experiences that explore themes such as home diversity, global warming, conservation, and activism. Participants will gain techniques to address issues of DEAI, global problems, and problem solving through single programs that are developmentally appropriate for young learners and help caregivers understand how to approach these topics and use museums as a resource. The virtual workshop will conclude with time for discussion on how these techniques could apply to the participants’ setting and unique collections.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)

*Special guest: Melanie Adams, Director, Anacostia Community Museum*

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ONLINE WORKSHOP: **Catalyzing Critical Conversations**

**Track: Network Building**

*Austin Matthews, Deputy Director for Exhibits, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)*

Look at the news today and you find a myriad example of topics that cry out for conversation, defined by Merriam-Webster as an "oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas." But how far do museums go in catalyzing conversations around hot topics, such as decolonization, race relations,
immigration, climate change, gun control, homelessness? How do museums talk about sensitive and sometimes polarizing topics? How do we develop exhibitions about them—or should we? What do YOU think? Join this workshop to explore these ideas, share your experiences and perspectives, and hear from others.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Affinity Group Networking
• Universities
• Publicly Supported Organizations
• Culturally Specific Organizations

Monday, November 9
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
IDEA STARTER SESSION: What’s Next for Museums and Cultural Institutions?
Track: PK-12 Education, Amplifying Voices, Digital First, Network Building
In this Idea Starter session, we’ll tackle what’s next for museums and cultural organizations. This year has challenged us all—personally and professionally—as we navigate a “new normal.” In addition to the struggles presented by the pandemic, this year has also seen remarkable expressions of activism in response to troubling examples of racial and social injustice. What are the implications for our field? Where do we go from here? How do we keep our organizations relevant and sustainable? Join us for a lively discussion with leaders from our field.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Reconnecting Communities with Collections and Reversing the Process of Colonization within Museums and Indigenous Communities
Track: Amplifying Voices
Laura Sharp, Program Manager, Smithsonian Recovering Voices Initiative
Emily Cain, Community Research Program Manager, Smithsonian Recovering Voices Initiative
Historically, ancestral objects held within the walls of museums have been detached from their indigenous owners and communities. More recently, community scholars and museum professionals have recognized the value and importance in reconnecting with communities and more importantly, the benefits of meaningful collaboration. Programs like Recovering Voices seek to reconnect communities with collections and educational initiatives and are having a profound impact on community revitalization initiatives, social health, and museum stewardship. In this session, learn more about this program and others like it working to reverse the process of colonization within museums and Indigenous communities.

Stronger Together: Building a Supportive and Inclusive Community of Practice for American Women’s History
Track: Network Building, Amplifying Voices, Digital First
Carrie Kotcho, A. James Clark Director of Education & Impact, National Museum of American History
Effie Kapsalis, Senior Digital Program Officer, American Women’s History Initiative
Dorothy Moss, Curator of Painting and Sculpture, National Portrait Gallery and Coordinating Curator, American Women’s History Initiative
Jennifer Schneider, Program Manager, American Women’s History Initiative
Leaders from the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative will lead a discussion about building a strong, supportive women’s history community of practice. Through a series of questions, panelists will explore how the Smithsonian and Affiliates can work together to move women’s history forward—being conscious that not all women have been included in history. Through an open discourse about practices, projects, and the future of women’s history, the American Women’s History Initiative hopes to
connect and create a space to allow for innovation, partnership, and the beginnings of a community of practice.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Resource Fair
All Access ticket holders can access these Zoom chats during the Fair. Click on the links in their Virtual Table page to join.

- Smithsonian Libraries
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
- YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
- Smithsonian Associates
- Access Smithsonian
- Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
General Session For Strategic Plan Feedback
Join Myriam Springuel, Director, SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations, to learn about the dynamic new strategic plan that will guide the work of both SITES and Affiliations in the coming years. There will be time for Q&A and discussion among participants about how you see your work reflected in the plan.

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Engaging All Ages in Museum Programming: A Ten-Strategy Philosophy**
Track: PK-12 Education
*Sarah Dunbar, Assistant Education Manager, USS Constitution Museum*
*Emily Bryant, Education Manager, USS Constitution Museum*

Over the course of several years, prototyping, and evaluation, the USS Constitution Museum (Boston, Massachusetts) has developed an engagement philosophy of ten strategies that inform the design, facilitation, and evaluation of student and family programs. In this session, panelists will define and illustrate the engagement strategies and discuss how they have applied them in virtual programming due to COVID-19. Panelists will share tools, successes, challenges, and evaluation strategies, using their Family Firepower program as a case study for engagement onsite and online. Participants will leave with ideas and models (including those found on the museum’s [engagefamilies.org](http://engagefamilies.org) website) to put similar engagement strategies into action.

**Collaborating with Youth to Change the Climate Conversation**
Track: Amplifying Voices, Digital First
*Brian Coyle, Program Manager, Smithsonian Conservation Commons*
*Jennifer Collins, Education Specialist, National Museum of Natural History*
*Jennifer Brundage, National Outreach Manager, Smithsonian Affiliations*

Smithsonian Affiliations is collaborating with 20 Affiliates, and colleagues from the Smithsonian's Conservation Commons and National Museum of Natural History, to cultivate youth leaders in the environmental movement through two projects—National Earth Optimism Teen Videos and National Earth Optimism Teen Conversation. The projects aim to identify, support, and mentor teens to channel their passion for protecting the environment with the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](https://unsdg.org) and turn them into meaningful community actions. When the pandemic hit and museums closed, all partners underwent a major pivot to reimagine how to do this work online and to achieve an impact that would need to be primarily virtual. In this session, project organizers and Affiliate collaborators will share highlights from this journey of empowering teens, and the array of actions teens across the
country are taking in response to a changing society and environment. Participants will take away ideas for collaborating with their own future changemakers and opportunities for community action available in the virtual environment with digital natives.

**Tuesday, November 10**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
*Special Guest: Machel Monenerkit, Acting Director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian*

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
**ONLINE WORKSHOP:** Maximizing Impact with Smithsonian Learning Lab: Partnerships that Achieve Greater Reach and Relevance in the Classroom
Track: PK-12 Education, Digital First
*Philippa Rappoport, Manager of Community Engagement, Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access*  
*Tess Porter, Digital Content Producer, Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access*

**NEW!!**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
**Affiliate Executive Leadership Meeting** (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
*Special guest: Christopher Browne, Deputy Director, Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum*

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
**American Women’s History Affinity Group**
*Led by Effie Kapsalis, Senior Digital Program Officer for Digital Strategy, Smithsonian Institution*
This Affinity Group meeting will build upon the information presented and discussed in the *Stronger Together: Building a Supportive and Inclusive Community of Practice for American Women’s History* session the previous day, although this is not a requirement for attendance. Group leaders will open conversation about ways participants can share stories of lesser-known women in American History from their own organizations through Wikipedia edit-a-thons and other collaborative opportunities. Join this session and help move this community of practice further by helping to create real action steps with the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Executive Leadership Meeting (For Affiliate Executive leadership only)
*Special Guest: Kirk Johnson, Director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History*

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
**ONLINE WORKSHOP:** The Whole Truth: Working Across Social, Bureaucratic, and Pedagogical Boundaries to Empower and Connect Marginalized Communities When Building a Public History Platform
Track: Amplifying Voices
*Karen Lanier, Digital Project Manager, International Museum of the Horse*
Many museums are updating their historical interpretation to tell a more complete history which, in many cases, includes typically underrepresented peoples’ stories. This workshop will provide a space for participants to discuss how to view complex community relationships as an asset, and how to explore solutions that include diverse, sometimes conflicting, voices when building a public history platform. Participants will leave this workshop feeling inspired to work across social, bureaucratic, and pedagogical boundaries in order to empower and connect marginalized communities for many generations to come.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Closing Networking Session