

# AASLH ONLINE CONFERENCE

## Doing History/Doing Justice



**T**he 2021 Online Conference will be an inspirational and informative experience. The online meeting will focus on sessions that allow speakers to share their stories, strategies, and expertise while interacting with participants through the chat function and some breakout rooms. The flexibility of the online format also allows the conference to be more reflective of crucial topics that emerge for the field in the months and weeks before the virtual meeting. Happy hours and discussion groups will encourage conversation between participants. This is an opportunity to improve on the successful online 2020 conference and to reach a larger percentage of our members and nonmembers around the country. (Schedule subject to change.)

**Full Access:** *\$55 for members; \$75 for nonmembers*

Includes live sessions and pre-recorded sessions, discussion groups, plenaries and keynote, brown bag lunches, and happy hours

**Basic Access:** *Free*

Includes plenaries, keynote, and happy hours

**Last year, over 2,500 people participated in the  
AASLH Online Annual Conference.**

*Tuesday, October 12*

<p><b>12 – 1:30 pm</b> <b>General Session</b></p>	<p><b>General Session: Public History for Traumatic Times</b> Across all disciplines, we are becoming more aware that trauma exerts a profound influence on learning and growth. This introductory session will explore the ethics, theory, and practice of trauma and healing as it relates to public history. We'll build understanding of racialized trauma, historical trauma, and #2020 trauma, consider the needs of both visitors and staff, and identify how, as audience-focused organizations, we can help heal instead of doing more harm.</p>
<p><b>2 – 3:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Circulating Justice Inside, Outside, and All-Around Museum Spaces</b> During 2020 the Greensboro (NC) History Museum, Boyle Heights Museum in East LA, and Seattle's Wing Luke Museum explored creative community expressions of justice in different physical spaces. Discover how choices about where to situate these projects helped reshape ideas within our organizations about what doing justice can mean.</p> <p><b>Institutional Genealogy: The Role of Knowing Our Past in the Pursuit of Equity</b> This session guides participants through interactive peer-to-peer facilitated conversations about what it means when our organizational pasts intersect with systems of injustice and oppression. This session focuses on identifying lessons from the past and using them to build confidence in our home organization's role in a more just future.</p> <p><b>Public History for Traumatic Times, Part 2</b> If you found the General Session meaningful, join us for this deeper dive into the ethics, theory, and practice of trauma and healing as it relates to public history. We'll map paths for building trauma-informed organizations and start speaking into existence the work our field might undertake together.</p>
<p><b>4 – 5:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p>	<p><b>In Dialogue: Contextualizing Women's History and Social Justice Narratives with Historical Objects</b> The National Portrait Gallery's <i>In Dialogue: Objects and Social Justice</i> program raises civic awareness through conversations about art, history, and material culture. Inherently collaborative by nature, NPG partners with colleagues from across the field to discuss how historical objects from their respective collections speak to today's social justice issues.</p> <p><b>Justice and History: What Art, Organizing, and Environmentalism Can Teach Us</b> This session will present case studies and connect participants in working groups to explore how historical sites and their institutions can move attention and resources towards incorporating underrepresented narratives. Many historic sites perpetuate oppressive and unjust social relationships. This session is an appeal to adopt alternative practices, actions, and thinking. The session will draw on the areas of art, organizing, and environmental justice to help key decision makers bring new perspectives to historical institutions.</p> <p><b>The Impact of Working with Native Communities</b> Working with Native communities is vital for museums. The Elkhart County Historical Museum partnered with Native groups while developing a new exhibit. The result was a transformation that reached beyond the exhibit. Hear from museum staff and their Native partners on how they formed these relationships and what they produced.</p>

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**Online Conference sponsorships and advertising opportunities are still available. Contact [regenstreif-harms@aaah.org](mailto:regenstreif-harms@aaah.org).**

## Wednesday, October 13

<p><b>12 – 1:30 pm</b> <b>General Session</b></p>	<p><b>General Session: Doing History; Doing Justice; Doing Democracy</b> As history organizations work to be relevant, effective civic engagement is essential. As we do this work more deliberately, it makes sense to understand the landscape and to collaborate with others supporting the democratic project in our own country and abroad. This session will highlight current partnerships and prompt participants to identify their own strategies for engagement.</p>
<p><b>2 – 3:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Brown Bag Lunches</b> Discussions hosted by AASLH Affinity Communities</p>
<p><b>4 – 5:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Deep Dive into our Local History of Racism and Discrimination</b> The panel will present a case study of one small town’s dive into a hidden history of racism and discrimination, the steps taken to create a safe, equitable, inclusive way to honor the history, and the work done to recover from historical betrayal.</p>
	<p><b>The Dream of a Common Language: What is our Role in Civic and Anti-Racist Teaching and Learning?</b> In the last few years, cascading crises have highlighted the importance of engaging all learners in powerful civic learning. What roles should historical sites and museums play, and how can we shift our mindsets to center our work? This session is meant to be the beginning of a conversation.</p>
	<p><b>Richmond’s Monumental Opportunities</b> <b>LS</b> In 2020, the Lost Cause monuments came down from Monument Avenue in Richmond, VA. In 2021, institutions are embracing monumental opportunities to collaborate with each other and with the community to face our past, dismantle the Lost Cause mythology, and craft a new vision for the future.</p>

## Thursday, October 14

<p><b>12 – 1:30 pm</b> <b>General Session</b></p>	<p><b>From the Ground Up: Land and History</b> The historical importance of land to our communities is an essential element of many environmental organizations’ rationale for protecting it. This session explores our relationship to land, our perception of what it means to inhabit—or “own”—it, and how it has shaped people’s lives, past, and present.</p>
<p><b>2 – 3:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Brown Bag Lunches</b> Discussions hosted by AASLH Affinity Communities</p>
<p><b>4 – 5:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Co-Authored History: Building Community Cohesion through Memory and Storytelling</b> History Colorado’s <i>Museum of Memory</i> project is a human-centered, community-based public history initiative for communities to reclaim and preserve their collective history and utilize site-based memory as a tool of resistance and cultural healing. This participatory session will model activities used by facilitators to foster memory, community narrative, and storytelling.</p>
	<p><b>“Silent Spaces &amp; Demolished Places”: Challenges in Interpreting and Preserving the Histories and Cultural Resources of Women and LGBTQ+ Communities</b> <b>LS</b> This session seeks to challenge the ways in which women and LGBTQ+ individuals’ histories have been neglected in grand narratives of interpretation and particularly how sites and other cultural resources associated with these communities have lacked preservation and protection.</p>

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Thought Leadership Sessions:

Trauma and Public History **TI**

Museums, Civics Learning, and Democracy **CD**

Land, Space, and Place **LS**

Friday, October 15

<p><b>12 – 1:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Initiating Change: Museums, Community, and the Legacy of George Floyd</b> <b>TI</b></p> <p>The murder of George Floyd in 2020 spurred museums to fulfill their roles as forums for civic discourse and trusted truth tellers. In this session museum staff and community activists share their experiences partnering on exhibitions and collecting initiatives that promote empathy, inclusive dialogue, and the healing of historical conflict.</p>
	<p><b>Listening and Learning: Practical Guidance on Capacity-Building for Accessibility</b></p> <p>How can museums provide a more inclusive experience for all? Accessibility advisors and consultants will join staff from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a 52-acre site that is over 100 years old, to share practical guidance on staff training, visitor services, and interpretive and wayfinding resources aimed at welcoming all visitors.</p>
	<p><b>Museums and Capitalism</b></p> <p>Capitalism is a foundational element of the social, economic, and political environment in the U.S. Yet, as a field we rarely examine it, thereby limiting our ability to navigate this context. This session looks at the history of capitalism in the U.S. and how it shapes collections and public programs.</p>
	<p><b>Now or Never: Equitable Workplaces Post-Pandemic</b></p> <p>Since the pandemic, how has your historic site or museum addressed issues of equitable hiring practices to confront systemic racism, overcome historical gender pay gap, and grapple with the newly compounded disparities? Come ready to share your experiences and ideas as we develop key takeaways to move the field forward.</p>
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<p><b>2 – 3:15 pm</b> <b>Concurrent Session</b></p>	<p><b>Dibaajimowaan: Anishinaabemowin Word for Narratives/Stories</b></p> <p>Toronto History Museums are embarking on a massive cultural shift by embracing diverse narratives and voices that capture our rich diversity in Canada through co-creation, partnerships, and shared authority. In the spirit of reciprocity, we will be engaging in an idea studio.</p>
	<p><b>Recovering Lost Communities: The Potential of Digital History</b></p> <p>Presenters will demonstrate and discuss recently developed web environments for exploring local history by applying them to an understanding of communities that were lost to urban development, industrialization, or neglect.</p>
	<p><b>The Resilient Museum: Strategies to Address Challenging Realities</b></p> <p>What does it take for a museum to be resilient in times of extraordinary change and disruption? This session introduces the five interrelated goals of <i>The Resilience Playbook</i> (2020) that frame resilient strategies tied to increasing inclusion, community value, institutional impact, financial alignment, and leadership agility.</p>
<p><b>4 – 5:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Keynote: Dr. Melanie Adams, Director of Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum</b></p>

Online Conference Pre-Recorded Sessions

This year’s conference will include several pre-recorded sessions that can be viewed on demand starting the week before the live conference begins. Times will be announced for “office hours” where you can meet the speakers, ask questions, or engage them and other attendees in conversation about their session topic.

- **Answering the Call: Steps Towards Decolonizing Your History Organization/Museum**
- **Can Organizations Center Untapped Communities in Their Volunteer Strategy?**
- **Engage Diverse Audiences with Inclusive Content**
- **Getting Emotional Over History: Incorporating SEL Standards in Museum Education**
- **Making Money Serve Justice**
- **Memorializing African American History: Cemeteries, Monuments, and Markers** **LS**
- **Reckoning with Manisses: Doing Justice to Block Island’s Indigenous and African American Legacy** **LS**
- **Saying Their Names: Interpreting Slavery and Shifting the Narrative at 19th Century Historic Sites in Louisville, Kentucky**
- **The Stories Behind the Textiles: Doing Justice to Underserved Voices**
- **Under One Umbrella: Engagement & Interpretation at Three Sites in One Organization**
- **What Strength in La Chicana**
- **Working with Communities to Tell Placed-Based Stories** **LS**

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