

Monday, September 23

General Session

10:00AM–11:15 AM

**FACING CHANGE: ADVANCING MUSEUM BOARD DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU**

Chair, American Alliance of Museums Board of Directors / Chief of Staff, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

AAM's unprecedented national initiative, *Facing Change: Advancing Museum Board Diversity & Inclusion* will be discussed along with the latest updates. Kippen will elaborate on the fieldwide diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) initiative as well as the challenges we as museum professionals will face going forward.

**OUR SEAT AT THE TABLE: ARE MUSEUMS ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL
CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION?**

BRIAN VALLO

Governor, Pueblo of Acoma / Former Director, Indian Arts Research Center, Santa Fe

Since the inception of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), many museums have achieved the mandate to consult with tribes. This “achievement”, through the lens of Native America, is wideranged and remains a contentious topic as large collections of those very materials protected by NAGPRA remain in the hands of institutions. Since NAGPRA, various governments, organizations, and some within the private sector have made similar commitments to consult and collaborate with tribes on a multitude of issues. What are some of the outcomes of this trend? Is consultation in this time meaningful? This presentation will trace one tribal leader's involvement with various experiences related to the consultation and collaborative models that exist today. Governor Vallo will also discuss his most recent involvement with museums and federal agencies including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Field Museum, and the Bureau of Land Management and their respective outcomes.

TRENDS & ISSUES LUNCH

11:45AM–1PM | *Pre-registration required.*

Debra Garcia y Griego, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, welcomes attendees and shares strategies the department is taking to “reach out and serve” citizens and visitors to New Mexico.

UNWELCOME ADVICE FOR TODAY'S (AND TOMORROW'S) MUSEUM LEADERS

There's change afoot! Are you old enough to resent it?! What ever happened to the days when Museums were solid cornerstones on the public square? When we were Institutions and were commonly understood to be *good for you*? You know, back when we were respected arbiters of all things *cultural*? Unquestioned. Forever, right? And never bothered by say, *people*. Brian Crockett, a long-time (and self-appointed) museum therapist/sheriff, will share his off-center observations of what tomorrow's museums leaders will need most to survive. Using anecdotes

from outside the mountain-plains region (to bother the fact-checkers), Brian will share his best advice on how to pull our museums back to the quiet safety of irrelevance. Or excellence. He often confuses the two.

Tuesday, September 24

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING LUNCHES

11:45AM–1PM | *Pre-registration required.*

L2: CURCOM LUNCH FOR CURATORS—USING COLLECTIONS TO REACH OUT AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Pre-registration required. All are welcome.

Cody Hartley, Acting Director of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will share strategies and stories gleaned from his experience in curation, collections management, and administration on how to use collections of all types to connect with and serve your desired community.

L3: EDCOM LUNCH FOR EDUCATORS—CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION IN MUSEUMS

Pre-registration required. All are welcome.

Joanne Lefrak, Ring Director of Education and Curator of Public Practice at SITE Santa Fe, shares insights about creativity and collaboration in museums. She will discuss, her roles as organizer of the Advance, a national biennial conference for education directors and as a founding member of the Community Educators Network, which is committed to the power of collaboration and collective impact, successfully addressing community needs by creating and sharing resources across the non-profit sector.

L4: RC-MPMA LUNCH FOR REGISTRARS & COLLECTION MANAGERS—REPLACING A MUSICAL MASTODON’S BRAIN, AND OTHER STORIES FROM THE MULTIVERSE

Pre-registration required. All are welcome.

Meow Wolf’s maintenance duties can be a handful, to say the least. Surrounded by portals to other dimensions, we select few (including Jeff Teague, Meow Wolf’s Tech Maintenance Lead and luncheon speaker) have chosen to brave the threat of being turned into sentient laser beams in order to bring to the public this amazing experience we call the House of Eternal Return.

L5: SMAC LUNCH FOR SMALL MUSEUM ADVOCATES—READING THE TEA LEAVES: THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC SITES AND HOUSE MUSEUMS

Pre-registration required. All are welcome.

Ken C. Turino, Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development for Historic New England, will profile historic sites that are using new models to engage with their communities to become more relevant. He will discuss how sites are adopting creative forms of interpretation and programming, while earning income to become more financially sustainable. This well illustrated presentation will give a variety of mini case studies from the United States and abroad to inspire participants on ways they may rethink their historic site.

L6: VOLUNTEER MANAGERS LUNCH–A VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE

Pre-registration required. All are welcome.

Rod Linkous, a long-time educator, volunteer, and docent at history museums and living history events, will lead a roundtable discussion focused on strategies to keep volunteers interested and involved. Topics will include what makes a good tour guide/docent, how to keep your people from getting “stale,” motivational ideas, scheduling and matching your tour guide/docent to groups, simple solutions to running tours, and tips on how to make sure your tours are interesting and engaging.

Wednesday, September 25

CLOSING LUNCH

12PM–1:30PM | *Pre-registration required.*

INTERPRETING CONTROVERSY

This panel discussion will explore how museums present sensitive subjects in a thoughtful way with our visitors, benefactors, and constituents in a polarized 21st century environment. This discussion is about interpretive educational methods, the use of diverse voice(s), the presentation of alternative historical narratives, museums as activists (or museums as neutral?), museums as public forums, and more. This timely session will present three interpretation models from three separate institutions within the MPMA region.

Introduction: Della Warrior, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM

Moderator: Ryan S. Flahive, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM

Panelists: Elizabeth Kanost, Communications Specialist, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS / Dr. Alexa Roberts, Retired Superintendent, National Park Service, Sand Creek Historic Site, Eads, CO / Kimberly H. Johndal, Audience Engagement and Museum Director, North Dakota Historical Society, Bismarck, ND

The panel discussion will be preceded by a short (10 minute) MPMA business meeting.