

Analysis of January 2017 survey, “Keeping Retirees in Service to the Museum Field”

- About 170 responses
- Of those retired, 85% said they already are working/volunteering in the museum profession. This response strongly supports the premise in the grant application that retirees wish to remain in service to the museum field upon retirement.
- 80% of respondents, not retired, anticipate being engaged in some capacity (volunteer or part-time) in the museum field upon retirement. Again, this percentage strongly supports the premise in the grant application that retirees wish to remain in service to the museum field upon retirement.
- The survey sought feedback on the three projects the grant group has developed: mentoring, coaching and advocacy. So perhaps it’s not surprising that respondents were very supportive of these three activities ranking them in the top three needs.
- 83% of respondents think institutions could benefit from a retired museum professional “coach” to whom they could turn on issues of policy development, operational, board and staff relations and more. This “coach” would not be compensated and would not supplant the services of consultants.
- 85% of respondents agreed with MPMA that retirees could play a useful role in advocating for museums, either communicating directly or in training activities for advocacy.
- The questions regarding mentoring were asked within the context of the existing MPMA emerging professional mentoring program that occurs at the annual conference. 71% of respondents thought the program should be year round and 68% said it did not matter which career stage mentees are in.
- The survey feedback (comments) supports what some in the grant group have said: there are barriers for retirees' participation in the museum field after retirement due to loss of an email address and not attending the annual conference. However, this may have more to do with retirees' inability to participate in MPMA -- or its programs -- not a barrier to them volunteering locally for their museum.
- Many of those responding to the survey provided extensive written comments thus providing a number of good quotes we will be able to use: website, white paper, etc.
- 37 respondents provided detailed contact information when told that MPMA would like to build a special database of retirees and about-to-be retirees so they can be queried in the future about their interest in the MPMA retirement program. This is a good number of people who can be added to the approximately 15 names that already comprise the start of the database.