



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Western  
Museums  
Association

# About the Western Museums Association

Providing professional development to museum professionals since 1935

The Western Museums Association (WMA) is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to serving museums, museum professionals, as well as the related organizations and individuals, by providing vision, enrichment, intellectual challenge, and a forum for communication and interaction. The WMA is primarily comprised of members across the Western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, the Western provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and the Pacific Islands, among others.

The WMA sustains itself through memberships, the Annual Meeting, and partnerships.

## Mission Statement

Transforming the museum field through collaboration.

## Vision

Dynamic museums connecting with thriving communities.



WMA believes museums must be essential to the communities they serve and that their impact contributes to why their communities thrive. By sparking the generation of ideas that continually refresh the museum field, **WMA ENSURES MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS ARE INSPIRED TO CREATE MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES THAT INDIVIDUAL VISITORS VALUE.**



*“Great cross-disciplinary content!”*

–WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Attendee

*“I thought the range of material was great—so much to choose from.”*

–WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Attendee

# Western Museums Associations 2016 Annual Meeting

Living our mission of “transforming the museum field through collaboration”, the Western Museums Association (WMA) partnered with the Museums Association of Arizona (MAA) to welcome 500+ museum professionals to Phoenix for the convening of the 2016 Annual Meeting on September 25-28. The progressive sessions, lively discussions, and pioneering insights that took place at this year’s Annual Meeting mirrored the spirit of development that Phoenix embodies. The meeting’s theme of **CHANGE** provided an excellent launching point for a wealth of thought-provoking conversations about how together we as museum professionals can transform the field.

And **EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the Arizona Science Center for all their leadership and hard work making the Annual Meeting a success!

**501**  
MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS  
WERE WELCOMED AT  
THE 2016 ANNUAL  
MEETING IN PHOENIX

**16**  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS

**43**  
SESSIONS

**159**  
PRESENTERS

WMA’s tradition of engaging and provocative programming continued in 2016 with 43 Sessions, 5 Pre-Conference Workshops and Tours, 5 Evening Events, 4 Affinity Gatherings, a Poster Session, and the fourth installment of WestMusings. A special thank you goes to the Volunteers, Exhibitors, and our Sponsors. All of these elements amounted to one fantastic Annual Meeting!

The 2016 Annual Meeting kicked off with a lively Opening General Session and Keynote Address. The Honorable Diane J. Humetewa presented an inspiring Keynote talk in which



she discussed the importance of collaboration between tribal communities and museums.

The Charles Redd Award for Exhibition Excellence and Director’s Chair Award, key components of WMA’s programming, were also presented during the Opening General Session. This year, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) was presented the Redd Award for their provocative exhibition, *Altered State: Marijuana in California*. Sarah Seiter, Associate Curator of Natural Sciences accepted the Charles Redd Award at the Opening General Session. Later, Sarah Seiter discussed the *Altered States* exhibition at the Storytellers and Supporters Breakfast.

Dr. Robert Breunig received the Director’s Chair Award. Dr. Breunig has been an inspirational leader of western museums and has held prominent positions in many of Arizona’s most celebrated cultural institutions. He has served as the Museum of Northern Arizona’s Director and CEO, the Deputy Director





and Chief Curator of the Heard Museum, and the Executive Director of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. In his speech Dr. Breunig reflected on his impressive and impactful career in museums.

Fourteen Wanda Chin Scholarship recipients were in attendance—congrats to them. This year, attendees' generosity helped raise \$7,500 for the 2017 Scholarship Program. Stay tuned for upcoming blog posts written by scholarship recipients about their experiences in Phoenix. Please help support your peers attending WMA 2017 in Edmonton by **donating to the Wanda Chin Scholarship Drive** today.

Attendees gathered on the final day of WMA 2016 for a stimulating Closing General Session and Keynote. Amada Cruz, Sybil Harrington Director of the Phoenix Art Museum, discussed the Annual Meeting theme of **CHANGE**. Keynote



speaker, Gregory Hinton, then delivered a moving talk on the history and culture of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) communities in the American West.

The fourth installment of WestMusings | 10 Minute Museum Talks closed out the content of the 2016 Annual Meeting. WestMusings is a program of short, engaging presentations by unique voices—intended to inspire others in the field. This year, speakers delved into topics that explored how museum professionals can find their own voice by following their personal passions.

<p><b>4</b></p> <p>EVENING EVENTS</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>AFFINITY GATHERINGS</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PRECONFERENCE TOURS AND WORKSHOPS</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>GENERAL SESSIONS</p>



WestMusings 2016 speakers:

- Niki Ciccotelli Stewart, *Chief Engagement Officer, Crystal Bridges Museum*
- Noelle Kahanu, *Assistant Specialist, Public Humanities & Native Hawaiian Programs Department of American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa*
- Jaclyn Roessel, *Education and Public Programs Director, Heard Museum*
- Dave Stroud, *Director of Interactive Exhibits, Thanksgiving Point*



*“Overall, sessions this year presented a clear call for action and encouraged museums to advocate for social justice. A great reminder of why this field matters!”*

–WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Attendee

*“The closing general session was excellent, poignant and relevant.”*

–WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Attendee

*“I was really happy with the EMP-focused events because it created a space for people to find each other under a common interest.”*

—WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Attendee



For the 2016–2019 term, the WMA Board of Directors welcomed 7 distinguished museum professionals:

- Laurie Egan-Hedley, *Director and Curator, Barona Cultural Center & Museum*
- Michael Fiegenschuh, *Architect, Project Manager, Mithun*
- Chris Keledjian, *Editor, J. Paul Getty Museum*
- Carlos Ortega, *Curator of Collections, Museum of Latin American Art*
- Noel Ratch, *Director, Reynolds-Alberta Museum*
- Rosanna Sharpe, *Independent*
- Jennifer Whitener, *Public Programs Manager, Woodland Park Zoo*

WMA members also voted in a new Officers of the Board:

**President:** Lisa Sasaki, *Director, Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center*

**Secretary:** Micah Parzen, *CEO, San Diego Museum of Man*

**Treasurer:** Scot Jaffe, *Director of Facilities and Operations, Oakland Museum of California*

**Vice President, Membership and Development:** Keni S. Sturgeon, *Director, Science & Education, Pacific Science Center*

**Vice President, Programs:** Louise Yokoi, *Principal, Anchor & Seed Philanthropic Consulting*

**Immediate Past President:** Kippen de Alba Chu, *Executive Director, Iolani Palace*

# A Special Thanks to Our 2016 Annual Meeting Sponsors



# WMA by the Numbers in 2016

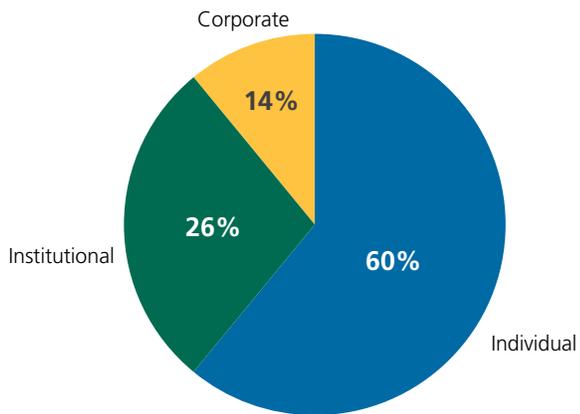


**6,155**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
CONNECTIONS

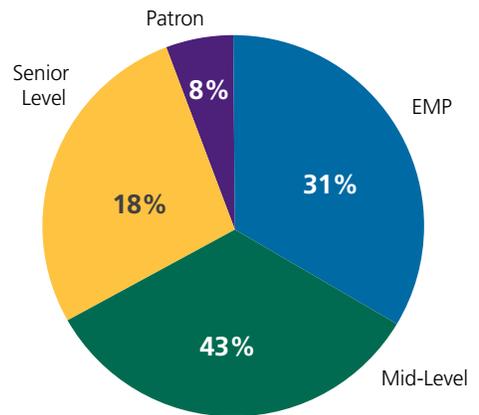
**1,526**  
TOTAL MEMBERS  
INCLUDES ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



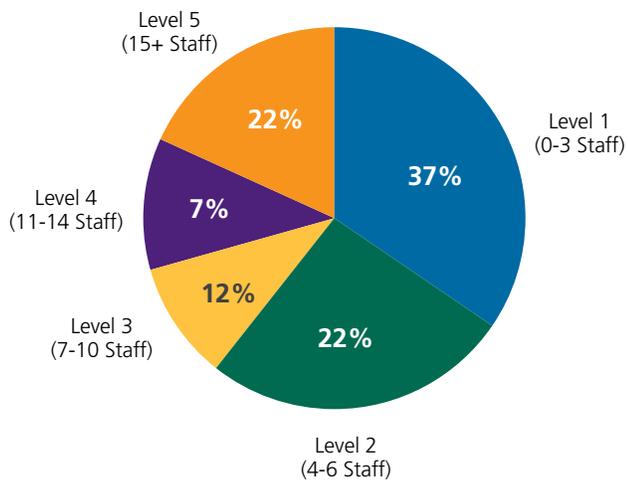
**MEMBERSHIP: All Levels**



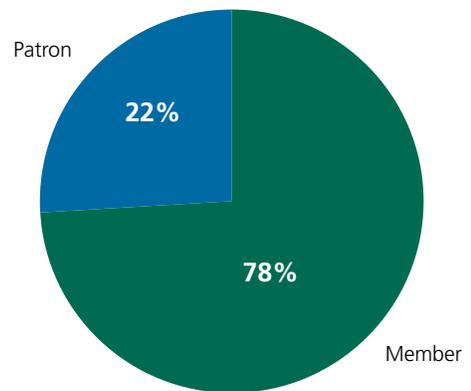
**MEMBERSHIP: Individual**



**MEMBERSHIP: Institutional**



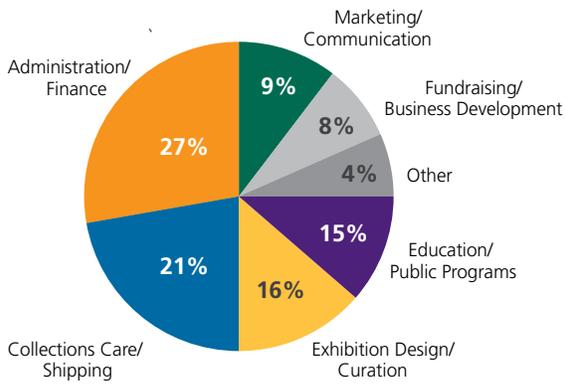
**MEMBERSHIP: Corporate**



# WMA 2016 by the Numbers



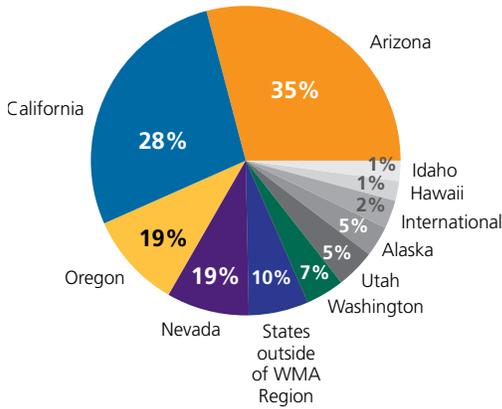
### ATTENDEES: Work Area



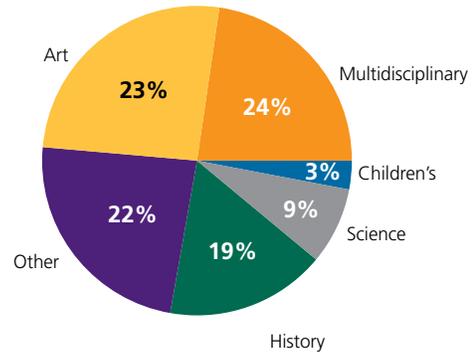
### ATTENDEES: Career Stage



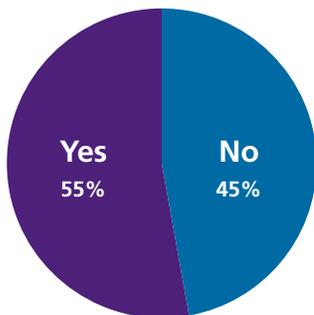
### ATTENDEES: By Location



### ATTENDEES: Museum Type



### ATTENDEES: First Time



### ATTENDEES: Registration Rate



# WMA Board of Directors



## OFFICERS

### President:

Lisa Sasaki, Director, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center (APAC)

### Vice President, Membership and Development:

Keni S. Sturgeon, Director, Science & Education Pacific Science Center

### Vice President, Programs:

Louise Yokoi, Principal, Anchor & Seed Philanthropic Consulting

### Treasurer:

Scot Jaffe, Director of Facilities and Operations, Oakland Museum of California

### Secretary:

Micah Parzen, CEO, San Diego Museum of Man

### Immediate Past President:

Redmond J. Barnett, Head of Exhibits, Washington State Historical Society

## MEMBERS

Eowyn Bates, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, San Diego Natural History Museum

W. James Burns, Executive Director, University of Arizona Museum of Art

Steve Comba, Associate Director/Registrar, Pomona College Museum of Art

Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director and Curator, Barona Cultural Center & Museum

Michael Fiegenschuh, Architect, Project Manager, Mithun

Victoria France, Huntington T. Block

Clare Haggarty, Civic Art Collections Manager, Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Michael Hammond, Executive Director, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

Katherine Hough, Chief Curator, Palm Springs Art Museum

Marilyn G. Jones, Traditional Heritage Specialist

Jonathan Katz, CEO, Cinnabar Inc

Chris Keledjian, Editor, J. Paul Getty Museum

James G. Leventhal, Director for Development, San Jose Museum of Art

Angela Linn, Collections Manager of Ethnology and History, University of Alaska Museum of the North

Adam Mikos, Consultant, LooseKnitCollective

Lorie Millward, Curator of Curiosity & Director of Education, Thanksgiving Point Institute

Carlos Ortega, Curator of Collections, Museum of Latin American Art

James Pepper Henry, Director/CEO, Gilcrease Museum

Noel Ratch, Director, Reynolds-Alberta Museum

Carla Roth, Principal, Think ROTH Projects

Anne Rowe, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Sunnylands Center

Rosanna Sharpe, Independent

Nikolai J. Sklaroff, Director, Public Finance West Region, Wells Fargo Securities

Moya Waters, Associate Director, Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia

Dana Whitelaw, President, High Desert Museum

Jennifer Whitener, Public Programs Manager, Woodland Park Zoo

## WMA STAFF

Jason B. Jones, Executive Director

Kate Skelly, Communications and Program Coordinator

Join the Western Museums Association, in partnership  
with the Alberta Museums Association, for an  
International Museum Conference in Edmonton, Canada

# UNITE 2017

ANNUAL MEETING 2017

SEPTEMBER 20 - 23

Chateau Lacombe Hotel

Edmonton \* Alberta \* Canada



Western  
Museums  
Association



ALBERTA MUSEUMS  
ASSOCIATION