



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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.



## Supporting Statement

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.**



**“A combination of interesting topics and knowledgeable presenters made all the sessions I attended very rewarding.”**

–WMA 2015 Annual Meeting Attendee

**“I learn so much each time I am able to attend.”**

–WMA 2015 Annual Meeting Attendee

## Western Museums Associations 2015 Annual Meeting

The Western Museums Association (WMA) proudly welcomed 540 museum professionals to San Jose for the convening of the 2015 Annual Meeting on October 24-27. San Jose is a city known for its culture of innovation. The progressive sessions, lively discussions, and visionary insights that took place at this year's Annual Meeting mirrored the trailblazing spirit of our host city. The meeting's theme of **Listen • Learn • Lead** provided an excellent launching point for a wealth of thought-provoking conversations.

WMA's tradition of forward-looking programming continued in 2015 with 41 Sessions, 6 Pre-Conference Workshops and Tours, 4 Evening Events, 4 Affinity Gatherings, a Poster Session, and the third 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!



**540**

MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS  
WERE WELCOMED AT THE  
2015 ANNUAL MEETING  
IN SAN JOSE

THIS YEAR'S ATTENDEES  
HELPED RAISE OVER

**\$8,900**

FOR THE 2015  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**41**

SESSIONS

**6**

PRE-CONFERENCE  
WORKSHOPS AND TOURS



of Curatorial & Engagement at the Museum of Vancouver, accepted the Charles Redd Award. Later, Susan Rowley and Leona Sparrow discussed the exhibition at the Storytellers and Supporters Luncheon.

Dr. Julie K. Stein, Executive Director of the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture received the Director's Chair Award. Dr. Stein has been an invaluable leader to WMA, and

The Charles Redd Award for Exhibition Excellence and Director's Chair Award are key components of WMA's programming. This year, the Museum of Anthropology, Museum of Vancouver, and Musqueam Cultural Education Resource Center were presented the Redd Award for their provocative exhibition, *čəsnəʔəm: The City Before the City*. Susan Rowley, Curator at the Museum of Anthropology, Leona Sparrow, Director of Treaty, Lands and Resources for the Musqueam Indian Band, and Gregory Dreicer, Director





stimulating introduction to the history of San Jose and Silicon Valley, and offered valuable insights about work and leadership from leaders in the technology field.

Fifteen Wanda Chin Scholarship recipients were in attendance—congrats to them. This year, attendees' generosity helped raise \$8,900 for the 2016 Scholarship Program. Stay tuned for upcoming blog posts written by scholarship recipients about their experiences in San Jose.

For the 2015-2018 term, the WMA Board of Directors welcomed Lorie Millward, Curator of Curiosity & Director of Education at Thanksgiving Point to the Board. Lorie joins the WMA board after three years of service on the Program Committee. Congrats and welcome to the WMA Board, Lorie!

The third installment of WestMusings | 10 Minute Museum Talks closed out the 2015 Annual Meeting at the Computer History Museum. 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 museums can be more engaging and relevant to the communities we serve. The videos are now available on WMA's website and YouTube channel.

has served as a Treasurer and President. In her speech, Dr. Stein credited the WMA for being the organization that taught her how to be a Director.

The 2015 Annual Meeting kicked off with an inspirational General Session and Keynote Address. Addresses delivered by Andrew Galvin of the Ohlone Indian Tribe, WMA President, Kippen de Alba Chu, and WMA Immediate Past-President, Redmond J. Barnett, featured 4 different languages, a beautiful testament to the diversity of voices represented in the Western region. President and Chief Executive Officer of the Computer History Museum, John C. Hollar presented a

**4**  
EVENING EVENTS

**4**  
AFFINITY GATHERINGS



### Watch the 2015 WestMusings videos

WestMusings 2015 speakers:

- Susan Edwards, *Associate Director for Digital Content, Hammer Museum*
- Laura Fry, *Curator of Art, Gilcrease Museum*
- Scott Manning Stevens, *Associate Professor of Native American Studies, Director, Native American Studies Program, Syracuse University*
- Maria Mortati, *Museum Exhibit Developer & Designer*

“I have to say this [conference] was one of the best I have been to when it came to networking and meeting people.”

—WMA 2015 Annual Meeting Attendee

## Group Discussion

Where are your opportunities to lead from the position you are in?

*What resources are you currently positioned to use? (time, money, etc.)*

If you are in a leadership position, how can you create space for others to lead?

“I came away with some real aha moments!”

—WMA 2015 Annual Meeting Attendee



“I enjoyed my time  
and met wonderful  
people.”

—WMA 2015 Annual Meeting  
Attendee

For the 2015–2018 term, the WMA Board of Directors welcomed 1 distinguished museum professional:

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

# A Special Thanks to Our 2015 Annual Meeting Sponsors



THE SIBBETT GROUP



# WMA by the Numbers in 2015

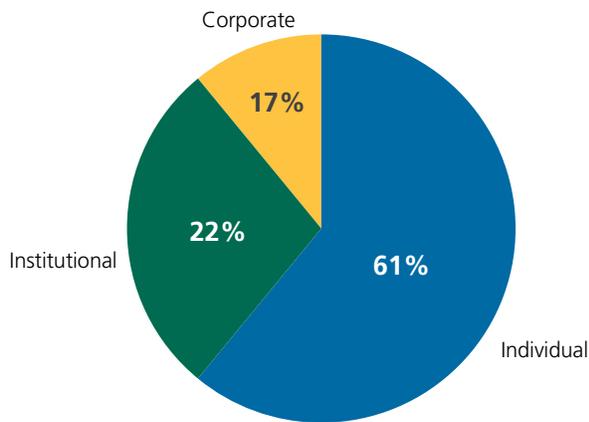


**5572**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
CONNECTIONS

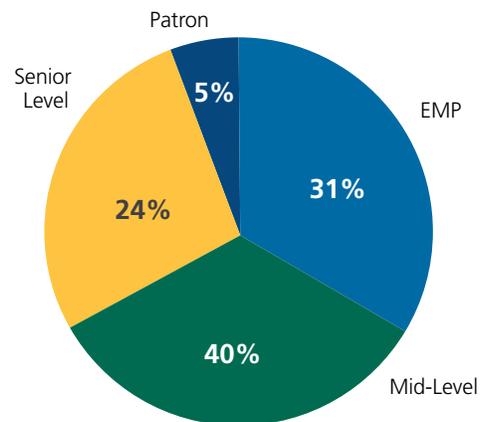
**1,346**  
TOTAL MEMBERS  
INCLUDES ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



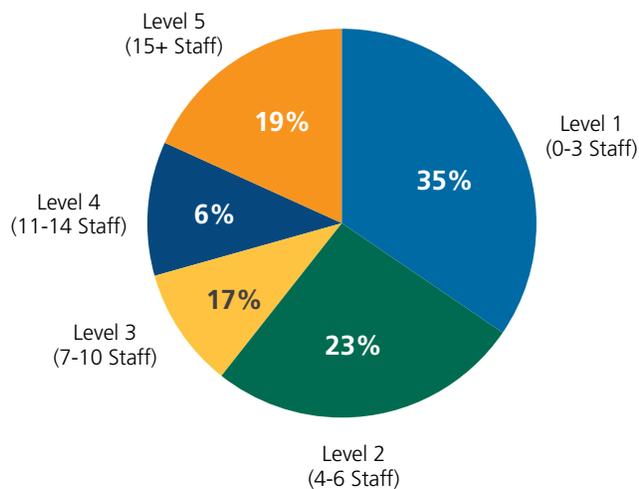
**MEMBERSHIP: All Levels**



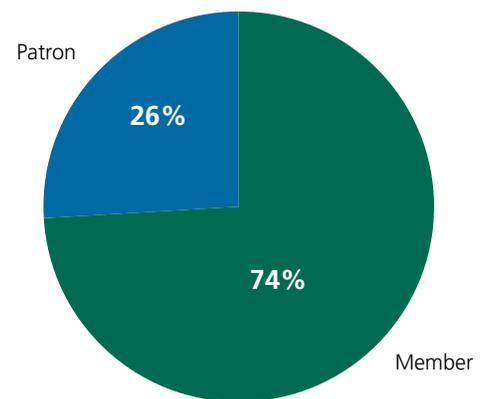
**MEMBERSHIP: Individual**



**MEMBERSHIP: Institutional**



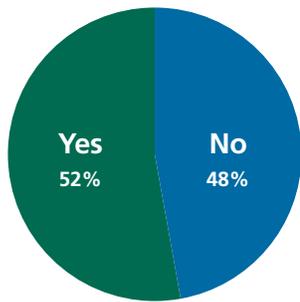
**MEMBERSHIP: Corporate**



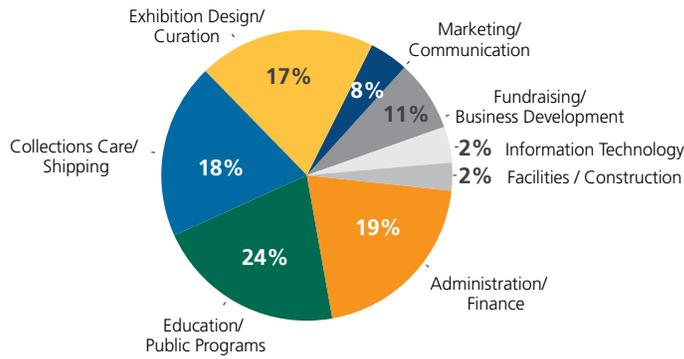
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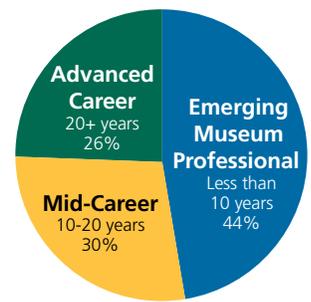
ATTENDEES: First Time



ATTENDEES: Work Area



ATTENDEES: Career Stage

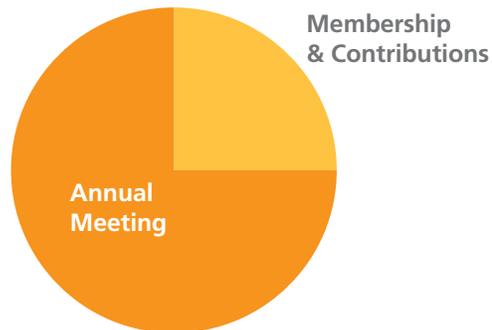


## WMA Financials

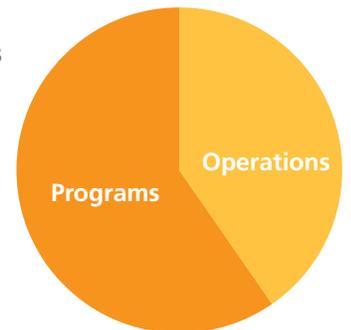
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL ASSETS	\$165,068	\$190,351	\$195,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,105	\$1,505	\$725
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$161,963	\$188,846	\$194,978

REVENUE



EXPENSES



## WMA Board of Directors



### OFFICERS

#### President:

Kippen de Alba Chu, *Executive Director, Iolani Palace*

#### Vice President, Membership and Development:

Lisa Sasaki, *Director of Audience and Civic Engagement, Oakland Museum of California*

#### Vice President, Programs:

Kurt Graham, *Church History Museum*

#### Treasurer:

Scot Jaffe, *Director of Exhibitions and Collections, San Diego Museum of Art*

#### 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, *Senior Director of Development and Membership, San Diego Natural History Museum*

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

Jacqueline Cabrera, *Associate Registrar for the Villa, J. Paul Getty Museum*

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

Victoria France, *Managing Director Fine Art Division, Robertson Taylor International Insurance Brokers*

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

Michael Hammond, *Executive Director, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum*

Cheryl Hinton, *Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections, Barona Cultural Center & Museum*

Katherine Hough, *Chief Curator, Palm Springs Art Museum*

Marilyn G. Jones, *Traditional Heritage Specialist*

Jonathan Katz, *CEO, Cinnabar Inc*

James G. Leventhal, *Director for Development, Exploratorium*

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*

James Pepper Henry, *Director/CEO, Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art*

Carla Roth, *Principal, Think ROTH Projects*

Anne Rowe, *Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Sunnylands Center*

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

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

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

Wesley A. Wenhardt, *Executive Director, Foss Waterway Seaport*

Dana Whitelaw, *President, High Desert Museum*

Louise Yokoi, *Independent Museum Professional*

### WMA STAFF

Jason B. Jones, *Executive Director*

Kate Skelly, *Communications and Program Coordinator*



Western Museums Association's

# 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

in partnership with the  
Museum Association of Arizona

# CHANGE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2016