The Western Museums Association Annual Meeting is a time-honored way to exchange innovative ideas and best practices within the museum field. As we celebrate our 90th anniversary, join us in Reno to engage with fellow practitioners, participate in enlightening sessions, and delve into informal educational activities. As museum professionals we are constantly challenged to inspire and engage our visitors. To do so, we must reflect on our practice and the work of our institutions. With the theme of ***ELEVATE***, WMA 2025 will explore ways to lift up the experiences of cultural professionals and the communities they serve.

**Why *ELEVATE*?**

Now more than ever, with a shifting political climate and uncertainties for the future, museum professionals are being called upon to uplift both visitors and cultural workers alike. Coming together on common ground, we look to our shared identities and unique differences to ***ELEVATE*** the work of our cultural institutions. In Reno, Nevada, 4,400 feet above sea level, we will forward the progress of museums by looking to the future. Together, we can challenge each other to better their individual and institutional practices, aiming higher and higher with new goals. Beyond outcomes, ***ELEVATE*** will encourage museum professionals to focus on the process of collaborating with others. This year, WMA wishes to celebrate our 90th anniversary by building relationships and soaring higher than ever before.

**What Makes *ELEVATE* Different?**

WMA’s 2025 Annual Meeting promises to be different from your standard museum conference. How can we come together to elevate the strength and diversity of our museums? In Reno, Annual Meeting activities will take place at Renaissance Reno Hotel & Spa – a modern hotel located on the Truckee River with access to Downtown Reno’s amazing museums, shopping, and entertainment offerings. In Reno, we will ***ELEVATE*** opportunities for learning, sharing, and connecting. Reflecting on our current work and thinking about the road ahead, WMA’s 90th anniversary will be all about aiming higher and higher.

If you are selected to contribute content, you will receive a discounted rate to the Annual Meeting, where your insights can help shape a more harmonious future for museum professionals. While proposal content can cover a wide array of topics, the Program Committee is particularly interested in proposals that explore the theme of ***ELEVATE***, progressing our missions, and improving our creativity and collectivity. Additionally, we are seeking proposals that incorporate a high level of attendee engagement and interactivity. Potential topics include:

•    Bringing people together
•    Developing collaborative processes

•    Creating and building on institutional relationships
•    Improving best practice standards across departments

•    Importance of both shared identities and unique attributes
•    Aiming high and setting feasible goals
•    How do we improve and build on the work we do?
•    Challenging others in a professional setting

•    Strategies for boosting fundraising

We look forward to your innovative proposals that contribute to a conference exploring the vital theme of ***ELEVATE***. Together, let's shape a resilient and thriving future for museums!

**How can *you* contribute? We are currently looking for:**

* [**Session & Workshop Proposals**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Session Proposals)
* [**Poster Sessions**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Poster Session)
* [**Roundtable Hosts**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Roundtable Host)
* [**Happy Hour Discussion Host**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Happy Hour Host)
* [**Inspiration Station Host**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Inspiration Station)
* [**Museum Film Screenings**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Film Screening)
* [**Activity Station Host**](https://westmuse.org/Request_For_Proposals#Activity Station Host)

Participating in any of these opportunities comes with a discounted “contributor” rate to the Annual Meeting.

Proposers are encouraged to be creative and think beyond the “sage on the stage” style of presenting, which often features one or more people presenting to the audience with limited opportunities for interaction. Interested in a morning run, yoga, or other wellness session? Propose it! Want to do a session outside? Propose it! Do you have a conundrum at work or want feedback on a particular issue? Propose a Roundtable Discussion or Activity Station program! If you need help connecting with people to participate in a session, WMA can help—just ask! Need to get inspired? Take a look back at our [2024 Sessions](https://westmuse.org/westmuse.org/annual-meeting/sessions) or [past programs](https://westmuse.org/past-annual-meetings).

Share your creative ideas today and let’s imagine a new future for museums, together in Reno this October!

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Session & Workshop Proposals**

Diverse presentations are a key component to the success of the Annual Meeting and are important in creating a meaningful and content-rich experience for all museum professionals who attend. YOU can help strengthen the WMA Community by submitting a session or workshop proposal for our 2025 Annual Meeting.

The Program Committee looks for proposals that use creative approaches to leverage the in-person nature of the Annual Meeting. Preference will be given to non-traditional session formats with a variety of interactive components, such as those with less emphasis on slides, more opportunities for Q&A, and audience engagement activities. So, experiment with session structure! Download our [**Program/Session Structures document**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Session_Structures.docx) to get inspired by different approaches for sharing your content. Always remember to highlight tools or takeaways you are planning to provide – attendees love them!

WMA specifically seeks sessions:

* About DEAI (diversity, accessibility, equity, and inclusion) and Indigenous topics;
* About issues not commonly addressed such as climate change/environmental issues, emergency preparedness, visitor services, docents/volunteers, safety and security, fundraising/marketing, and cyber security;
* That help museums plan for/interpret the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026;

Sessions will take place across three days: **October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th** and are 75 minutes. Workshops will take place on **October 1st** and can either be half day (4 hours) or full day (7 hours).

The [Online Submission Form](https://westmuse.org/Online-Session-Proposal-Form) makes the submission process easy and fast! While the [Session & Workshop Proposal Worksheet](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA_2024_RFP_Sess%26Wkshop_Worksheet.docx) will help build your proposal before putting your information into the Online Submission Form. Simply download the Worksheet and begin planning.

Please review the [Proposal Guidelines](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA_2024_Proposal_Guidelines.docx) before completing your proposal**.**

[Download the WMA Program Rubric](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Program_Rubric.docx) to understand what the Program Committee is looking for in proposals and to help you craft a session more likely to be included in the Annual Meeting.

Have a question about submitting a proposal? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download Session & Workshop Proposal Worksheet**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA_2024_RFP_Sess%26Wkshop_Worksheet.docx)

[**Download Proposal Guidelines**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA_2024_Proposal_Guidelines.docx)

[**Download the WMA Program Rubric**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Program_Rubric.docx)

[**Submit Your Proposal Online**](https://westmuse.org/session-proposal-online-forms)

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Poster Session**

The perennially popular Poster Session provides a unique opportunity for individuals to present their academic research, progressive ideas, or public programs through illustrated and informative posters. The Poster Session allows presenters and attendees to engage in discourse with one another and network in an informal setting.

To present at WMA's 2024 Poster Session, you must be in attendance, standing next to your poster where you can interact with attendees, answer questions, and discuss your projects/research on **Friday, October 3, 2025,** in the Exhibit Hall**.**

Have a question about the Poster Session? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Poster Session Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Poster_Proposal.docx)

**To propose a Poster, please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Poster Session – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Roundtable Discussion Host**

Interested in a specific topic or trend relating to museums? Want to get feedback about a program idea? Whether you are looking to help others gain knowledge in a certain area or are looking for a new perspective to help your work, propose hosting a Roundtable Discussion to connect with colleagues over casual conversation. Here are some ideas to get your wheels turning:

* Goal Setting and Career Path
* Mental Health and Self Care for Growth
* Building Institutional Relationships
* BIPOC Museum Professionals’ Experiences
* Emerging Museum Professionals’ Experiences
* Green Museum Practices
* Collections Management and Registration
* Volunteer / Docent Programs
* K-12 Programs
* Fundraising
* Workers’ Rights
* Adult Education / Creative Aging
* Sharing Power / Community Collaborations

Roundtables will take place on **Saturday, October 4, 2024, from 2:00 to 4:00pm.**

Have a question about the Roundtable Host? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Roundtable Host Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Roundtable-Proposal.docx)

**To propose a Roundtable Discussion, please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Roundtable Discussion – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Happy Hour Discussion Host**

WMA's Happy Hours are casual events for attendees to meet and socialize. In Tucson, these will be held onsite at the Annual Meeting hotel with a variety of beverage options. WMA is looking for hosts to stimulate and direct the conversation. As a Happy Hour Discussion Host, you will lead colleagues in a conversation or activity and will receive a discounted registration! Below are some Happy Hour ideas to get your wheels turning. With only a small number of available Happy Hour slots available, inclusion will be based on creativity and compatibility with other programming. What’s a topic, activity, or group of people that could be a theme for a Happy Hour that you host?

* Emerging Museum Professional Happy Hour
* LGBTQIA+ Happy Hour
* BIPOC Museum Professional Happy Hour
* Drink & Draw Happy Hour
* Small Museums Happy Hour
* Collections Happy Hour

Have a question about the Happy Hour Host? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Happy Hour Host Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Happy-Hour-Host-Proposal.docx)

**To propose a Happy Hour Discussion, please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Happy Hour Discussion Host – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Inspiration Station Host**

An Inspiration Station is a showcase of ideas, solutions, and innovations from around the museum field that provides attendees with the chance to talk directly with the folks making them happen. Federal agencies, museum associations, and individuals with great ideas will all be in the mix. Do you want to test out a hands-on activity? This is the place! It's a casual way for attendees to encounter new hands-on ideas and talk to the people implementing them.

Inspiration Stations will take place on **Saturday, October 4, 2025.**

Have a question about the Inspiration Station? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Inspiration Station Host Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Inspiration-Station-Proposal.docx)

**To propose an Inspiration Station please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Inspiration Station Host – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**Museum Film Screening**

In Tucson, WMA is looking to screen several short films about museums – with popcorn! Has your museum recently produced a film? Would you like to screen it for attendees and be on hand for a Q&A? Then, propose it for a screening!

Have a question about Film Screenings? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Museum Film Screening Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Museum_Film_Proposal.docx)

**To propose a Museum Film Screening please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Museum Film Screening – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Activity Station Host**

Do you have a short educational activity that you run at your museums and want to get feedback from colleagues? Maybe an activity or program sample you want to do, but need some beta testing? Or maybe an interactive or creative activity that you think will benefit museum professionals? Propose a program for our Activity Station. Here are some Activity Station examples:

* An educational activity that you run at your museum and want to get feedback on
* A hands-on activity you want to do, but need some beta testing
* An interactive or creative activity that you think will benefit museum professionals (i.e., journal writing, meditation, label-making, etc.)

Activity Stations will take place on both Friday, October 2 and **Saturday, October 3, 2025,** in the Exhibit Hall**.**

Have a question about the Activity Host? Please see our 2025 [Annual Meeting FAQ](https://westmuse.org/annual-meeting-faq#RFP) page or email WMA staff.

[**Download the Activity Station Host Proposal Form**](https://westmuse.org/sites/westmuse.org/files/documents/WMA2024/WMA2024_Activity-Station-Proposal.docx)

**To propose an Activity Station, please submit a completed form to** **proposals@westmuse.org** **with**

**“Activity Station Host – Your Last Name" as the subject**

**The deadline for all proposals is Friday, March 21, 2025**