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!

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, čəsnaʔəm: 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 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...
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

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

“I came away with some real aha moments!”
– 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

“I enjoyed my time and met wonderful people.”

—WMA 2015 Annual Meeting Attendee
A Special Thanks to Our 2015 Annual Meeting Sponsors
WMA by the Numbers in 2015

**5572**
SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP: All Levels
- Corporate: 17%
- Institutional: 22%
- Individual: 61%

MEMBERSHIP: Individual
- Patron: 31%
- EMP: 40%
- Mid-Level: 24%
- Senior Level: 5%

MEMBERSHIP: Institutional
- Level 1 (0-3 Staff): 35%
- Level 2 (4-6 Staff): 23%
- Level 3 (7-10 Staff): 17%
- Level 4 (11-14 Staff): 6%
- Level 5 (15+ Staff): 19%

MEMBERSHIP: Corporate
- Member: 74%
- Patron: 26%
WMA by the Numbers in 2015

ATTENDEES: First Time

Yes 52%
No 48%

ATTENDEES: Work Area

- Exhibition Design/ Curation: 17%
- Marketing/ Communication: 8%
- Fundraising/ Business Development: 11%
- Information Technology: 2%
- Facilities/ Construction: 2%
- Administration/ Finance: 19%
- Education/ Public Programs: 24%

ATTENDEES: Career Stage

- Advanced Career (20+ years): 26%
- Emerging Museum Professional (Less than 10 years): 44%
- Mid-Career (10-20 years): 30%

WMA Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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<th>2013</th>
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<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$161,963</td>
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REVENUE

- Annual Meeting
- Membership & Contributions

EXPENSES

- Programs
- Operations
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, Loose Knit Collective

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

Ken 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