Collective Wisdom:
Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) Conference Exchange

Call for Applicants

If you work in a library, museum or archives or if you work or volunteer for an organization that serves any of these institutions, this is an exciting opportunity to break down barriers and strengthen connections across the field, with a focus on continuing education and professional development (CE/PD). The Collective Wisdom: LAM Conference Exchange is offering a unique experience, in which 12 qualified members (4 representatives each from archives, museums, and libraries) will form a learning cohort and attend three major sector conferences and an in-person convening together in 2016.

The Collective Wisdom Advisory Team is conducting an open, competitive application process to discover candidates who:

- are enthusiastic about actively participating in a learning cohort and forming strong ties beyond their own area
- will widely disseminate their insights and recommendations for increased cross-sector projects and collaboration, reflecting together on cross-sector culture, policies, and practices related to advancing learning
- will share with the field and with their own organizations new potential cross-sector CE/PD partnerships and collaborations, along with recommendations for making cross-sector library, archives, and museum partnerships more successful
- are excited to create a foundation for wider and stronger CE/PD professional networks across archives, libraries, and museums and become effective advocates for investment of resources in CE/PD

Conference travel expenses will be funded by IMLS and the Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums. All activities will be completed by December 2016.

Background

The Collective Wisdom: LAM Conference Exchange is sponsored by the Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums (Coalition), which works in deliberate coordination across organizational boundaries to devise and strengthen sustainable continuing education and professional development programs that will transform the archives, library, and museum workforce in ways that lead to measurable impact on our nation’s communities. The Coalition is interested in increasing understanding of trends, issues, and opportunities, and raising the visibility of existing cross-sector CE/PD partnerships and collaboration. The Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries, and Museums is funded by IMLS, Grant number: RE: 00-13-0092-13, and administered by OCLC.
Eligibility

Applicants for the Collective Wisdom cohort will:

- meet one of the following criteria:
  1) be paid or volunteer staff of an archives, library, or museum; or
  2) be paid or volunteer staff of an organization or member institution that serves archives, libraries or museums (for example, national, regional, or state-level professional associations; national or regional consortia, cooperatives); or
  3) be an active member of a national, regional, or state-level professional association for archives, libraries, or museums

- demonstrate interest in working across sectors to promote partnerships and collaboration

- if employed, have documented support of their employer to participate and commit the time to attend three national conferences and an in-person convening, and other activities (conference calls, collaborative writing, etc.)

- have experience attending archives, library, or museum conferences (at least one national or two state/regional level)

- have ability to interact, make connections in unfamiliar settings, and form relationships

- have strong communication skills in speaking and writing, and familiarity with sharing learning and reflections through social media and professional channels

- be able to travel to three conferences, as well as an in-person gathering to be scheduled, during the proposed timeframe (see below)

- be available to dedicate approximately 10 hours each month to cohort activities, April – December 2016 (in addition to conference attendance).

- Note: see footnote for ineligibility restrictions

The following criteria are strongly preferred and will be weighed favorably in the selection process:

- Applicant is in a position to make or influence CE/PD-related decisions in his/her organization or professional association

- Applicant is willing to connect with local LAM institutions and people in conference host cities during sector conferences

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1Ineligibility restrictions:

- Applicant cannot be a current member of the Collective Wisdom: LAM Conference Exchange Advisory Team or selection committee.

- Applicant cannot be a current staff member of OCLC.

- This opportunity is only open to residents of one of the fifty states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

- Because this project is funded with federal dollars, employees of federal agencies are not eligible to be applicants.
• Applicant is able to design and find opportunities to deliver presentations about the experience of participating in the Collective Wisdom: LAM Conference Exchange cohort

National Conferences for Cohort Attendance

• Museums: AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo, May 26 – 29 in Washington DC
• Libraries: ALA Annual 2016, June 23 – 28 in Orlando, FL
• Archives: Archives * Records 2016 (SAA/CoSA), July 31 – August 6 in Atlanta, GA
• In-person convening, date/location TBA, Fall 2016. Note: We understand that it may not be possible to commit to attend an event for which the date has not been determined. We will work with selected cohort participants around any pre-existing conflicts.

Application and Selection Process

To apply, please complete all of the required materials and submit by February 23 at 5 PM Pacific time.

Submission Materials

1. Completed Collective Wisdom: LAM Conference Exchange Online Application Form:
   https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Collective-Wisdom

2. Résumé (no more than 2 pages), including a list of your membership in professional organizations
   a. Email document or URL to Anna Shelton, sheltona@oclc.org

3. LAM Conference Exchange Employer Recommendation Form: if you are employed, this form needs to be completed by your employer or supervisor, indicating support for taking the time necessary to attend the conferences and participate in the conference exchange program activities, and a providing a brief statement of what you (the applicant) will gain/contribute professionally and bring back to the organization as a result of your program participation:
   https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAM-employer

Before you begin to fill in the application form:

• You may want to draft your response to essay question #10 (response limited to 500 words): “Please describe your reasons and motivation for wanting to participate in the Collective Wisdom LAM Conference Exchange cohort. Based on the criteria listed in the Call to Applicants, what makes you a good candidate for this experience?”
Cohort participants will be selected by March 7, 2016. Virtual activities of the cohort to be conducted online will begin in April 2016 and conclude in December 2016. For questions about this opportunity, please contact Anna Shelton: sheltona@oclc.org.