

Coalition Request for Hosting Partner



About the Coalition

Beginning in March 2014, the Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums has brought together twenty-two representatives from U.S.-based public, private or nonprofit organizations that are investing in, leading, or delivering learning for our collective profession's workforce. As participants in the Coalition, these organizations are working together to devise and strengthen learning that will transform the archives, library and museum (LAM) workforce in ways that lead to measurable impact on our nation's communities. Its purpose and goals are articulated in a [Joint Strategy](#).

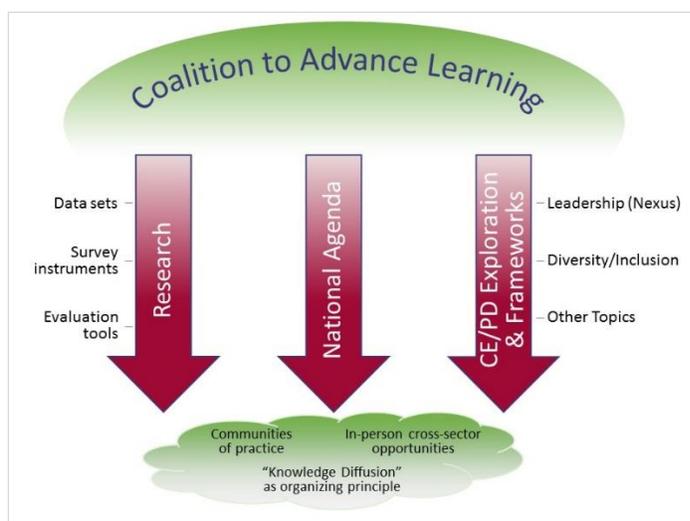
Coalition participants have worked together virtually and in person to build stronger relationships and deepen understanding across the LAM sectors, and to conduct research and pilot initiatives to advance their joint strategy. The Coalition demonstrates the value of collective action across sectors through multiple efforts. The [National Agenda for Continuing Education and Professional Development across Libraries, Archives, and Museums](#) articulates a broad planning and evaluation framework for the systemic strengthening of continuing education and professional development (CE/PD). The [Mapping the Landscapes](#) project has advanced the strategy of data gathering and sharing, producing a shared lexicon and aggregated views of learning needs within and across the sectors. The [Collective Wisdom LAM Conference Exchange](#) project has fostered rich cross-sector cultural exchange and strong advocacy for the value of breaking down silos to learn and work collaboratively. This potential is further explored through researching and reporting on the [feasibility of cross-sector residencies](#) and the [status of CE/PD supply](#) across the field.

In support of its foundational activities, the Coalition has received grants from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), with administration provided by [OCLC](#) and facilitation expertise provided by BERK Consulting and the [Educopia Institute](#). The current grant support ended on December 30, 2016.

Moving Forward with Impact

Libraries, archives and museums share tremendous common ground. They, along with the entire nonprofit sector, stand at the precipice of an uncertain future. From funding to intellectual freedom, LAMs will be tested in the next decade. It is increasingly imperative that LAMs work together, share expertise, learn from one another, and grow stronger.

The Coalition has built a strong network of organizational leaders and advocates for cross-sector learning, who have coalesced around a shared vision, priorities for working together, and goals and opportunities for action by anyone across the field. The Coalition is energized to expand participation to new associations and organizations as we continue to address shared challenges across LAMs, with learning at our core and knowledge diffusion as our organizing principle. We will pursue further opportunities to activate the National Agenda; conduct research; produce data, tools and frameworks; and explore innovations in cross-sector learning.



Graphic representation of the overarching, networked collective model of the Coalition that activates opportunities for system-wide impact along three key trajectories

Coalition strengths

During the formative years, Coalition efforts have surfaced many strengths and resulted in a strong foundation that can be built upon.

- **Convening Power:** By joining the Coalition, organizations can forge new, active relationships with leaders across the field. The Coalition’s network of thought leaders and bridge builders comprises a multifaceted professional landscape, representing the spectrum of library types, national and regional archives associations, and museum organizations that represent states, regions and various disciplines.
- **Collective Impact:** A visible Coalition presence provides a locus for LAM collaboration; it is a conduit and connection point for all levels of LAM practitioners to form cross-sector connections that fuel collective impact. Rather than build a weighty centralized body, the Coalition energized a decentralized community to coordinate a constellation of activities that align with their shared vision and national agenda. This increases the impact of the investment each organization makes.
- **Broad Reach:** With a combined membership that is immense, the Coalition organizations offer a robust channel for two-way communication with the LAMs profession. All members include continuing education/professional development as part of their missions. This extensive connection to practitioners and professionals in the field through their member institutions gives the Coalition the potential to reach a broad, even global, audience with a unified voice.
- **Research Quality:** The Coalition has demonstrated significant research power, eliciting full, long survey responses in healthy numbers from across sectors. The Coalition has laid the groundwork for a comprehensive network in which LAM research is really happening.
- **Tangible Outputs:** The Coalition has produced real, tangible assets in the form of the Mapping the Landscapes survey instrument, dataset and Tableau interface, and the Nexus LAB framework, curriculum and evaluation tools. These are valuable in their own right and could be used as models for other projects and deliverables in the future.
- **Intangible Value:** The power of relationships has tremendous value that should not be overlooked. The strength of professional connections formed over years of working together leads to cross-sector collaboration that is innovative and ground-shifting. The combined strengths under the Coalition’s “big umbrella” and the glue of relationships and mutual trust are powerful ingredients

for meeting the challenges of the current environment. We are stronger together—now more than ever.

- **Legitimacy:** The commitment of its funders and the valued support of many participating institutions beyond the core membership are all evidence of confidence in the mission and the work of the Coalition. The Coalition has a track record of successful efforts and legitimacy in the eyes of the LAM community.

Hosting Partner Services

As the Coalition seeks to transition into an ongoing program, we are looking for a partner organization to help incubate this evolution. This partner organization would host and support the following near-term priorities of the Coalition:

- Nurture communication and convenings among Coalition participants;
- Provide marketing communication channels to increase awareness of Coalition activities and outputs;
- Foster engagement and dialogue among existing communities of practice with Coalition activities and outputs;
- Formulate a business plan for long-term sustainability of the Coalition collective;
- Seek new partnerships and opportunities for grant-funded projects in alignment with *National Agenda* goals and strategies.

Administrative and programmatic infrastructure support will help us grow toward greater sustainability. Time, resources and expertise are crucial during this bridging phase. As the transition takes shape, the Coalition will become increasingly self-supporting.

Potential hosting partners will have an expressed commitment to collaborative learning and leadership across the nonprofit educational and cultural sectors. Contributions of the hosting partner organization may include any of the following:

- program administration/management and marketing
- technical support in the form of website, online community of practice and communication channels
- planning and coordination for an in-person convening of Coalition participants
- participation in Coalition working groups and related activities
- business planning leadership for sustainability of the Coalition

Hosting partners will be acknowledged in Coalition reports and projects. It is expected that this partnership would be initiated in the spring of 2017. The Coalition and the partner will negotiate an appropriate timeframe for this commitment and agree on a suitable period for assessment.

Evaluation of Potential for Successful Partnership

To ensure the identification of a constructive match, the Coalition has articulated some key criteria for evaluating the likely success of prospective hosting partnerships. These are not requirements to be met in full. In fact, significant strength in one area may be sufficient to foster a healthy partnership.

- Intersection of the partner's organizational mission with Coalition mission and goals

- Demonstrated interest in cross-pollination and effectiveness in collaboration, especially across LAM sectors
- Interest in incubation of promising projects; ability to nurture transition from emergent to ongoing status
- Demonstrated interest in and evidence of successful pursuit of funding opportunities, such as grants or sponsorships
- Capacity to devote resources or staff time to support program development, marketing, and evaluation
- Expertise to share in alignment with Coalition strategies and pursuit of opportunities for collaborative cross-sector action