

VSG CONFERENCE 2020 Programme: Co-Creating the Future: Participation and the Role of Visitor Studies.
Thursday 5th and Friday 6th March 2020, Museum of London #VSGconf20



DAY 1: Thursday 5 th March 2020			
09.30-10.00	Registration and welcome coffee		
10.00-10.10	Welcome by VSG Committee		
10.10-11.00	Keynote: <i>The People's Palace story – innovating and working together in Glasgow (The Democratic Society, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life)</i> : This presentation by The Democratic Society, Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council will explore the journey towards empowering communities in the capital transformation programme for the People's Palace in the heart of Glasgow. A co-production approach to community engagement and the impact it's had so far.		
11.00- 11.45	Museum and community in networked innovative practice: <i>The role of evaluation in resolving tensions and supporting collaboration and co-design, Karen Knutson and Kevin Crowley (University of Pittsburgh)</i> : In this presentation, we discuss our evaluation work with a network of museums and community-based organizations co-designing programming to support early literacy for urban families in a large US city. We'll discuss findings from the first two years of the project in the context of the challenges of using evaluation to simultaneously address impact, improvement and participation across the network.		
11.45- 12.00	Coffee break		
12.00- 13.00	Crowdsourcing in cultural heritage: <i>a perspective on participatory practice online, Mia Ridge (British Library)</i> : Cultural institutions have been experimenting with forms of online tasks such as social tagging, classification and transcription designed to make collections more easily discoverable since the mid-2000s. This presentation begins with an overview of key digital participatory projects viewed through a user experience design lens, before moving on to a more detailed examination of lessons learnt from crowdsourcing projects at the British Library.		
13.00- 14.00	Lunch (VSG AGM 13.45- 14.00)		
14.00- 15.00	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Parallel Session 1A: <i>Participation - so easy a child can do it..., Nicola Wallis and Kate Noble (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)</i>: An exploration of participatory practice in museums with very young children. What can we learn from Early Years Education about how to create a meaningful dialogue with our youngest visitors? </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Parallel Session 1B: <i>Spatial politics of participation - the changing role of public spaces in arts institutions, Stefania Donini (Guildhall Barbican)</i>: Using the Barbican Centre's foyers as a case study, this presentation discusses the tensions between ideas of inclusivity and participatory processes, and the needs of spatial management and maximising income for the sake of financial sustainability. It draws conclusions on alternative methods in visitor and audience studies, discussing the changing nature of public spaces in arts institutions, the role of mediators (i.e. visitor assistants) in audience research, as well as key questions on the 'publicness' of public spaces and programmes. </td> </tr> </table>	Parallel Session 1A: <i>Participation - so easy a child can do it..., Nicola Wallis and Kate Noble (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)</i> : An exploration of participatory practice in museums with very young children. What can we learn from Early Years Education about how to create a meaningful dialogue with our youngest visitors?	Parallel Session 1B: <i>Spatial politics of participation - the changing role of public spaces in arts institutions, Stefania Donini (Guildhall Barbican)</i> : Using the Barbican Centre's foyers as a case study, this presentation discusses the tensions between ideas of inclusivity and participatory processes, and the needs of spatial management and maximising income for the sake of financial sustainability. It draws conclusions on alternative methods in visitor and audience studies, discussing the changing nature of public spaces in arts institutions, the role of mediators (i.e. visitor assistants) in audience research, as well as key questions on the 'publicness' of public spaces and programmes.
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15.00- 15.15	Comfort break		
15.15-16.00	Challenging the norm: <i>Reconsidering participatory practice and evaluation, Kayte McSweeney (British Museum and Independent Consultant) and Jen Kavanagh (Independent Curator)</i> : Following the publication of their book ' <i>Museum Participation: New Directions for Audience Collaboration</i> ' in 2016, Kayte and Jen will reflect on their impressions of where the cultural heritage sector is today regarding participatory practice and collaborative curating. Drawing on case studies and considering the role visitor research does – or indeed should – play in evidencing the impact of these methods of working, this 'in conversation' will allow space for discussion and reflection to conclude Day 1 of the conference.		
16.00- 16.15	Reflections and looking ahead to Day 2		
16:15- 17.15	Networking drinks, followed by optional VSG Social – drinks and dinner locally. <i>Please sign up at conference check-in desk when you arrive on Day 1 if you would like to join us for dinner.</i>		

DAY 2: Friday 6 th March 2020			
09.30-10.00	Registration and welcome coffee		
10.00-10.10	Welcome by VSG Committee		
10.10-11.00	Keynote: Critical conversations - becoming a listening museum, Kirsty Devine (Programme Director, Paisley Museum Re-imagined): Paisley Museum Re-Imagined is the biggest renewal that the Museum has undertaken in its 150 year history. To help realise this ambition the wider public were asked to shape the plans for the building, landscape and the collections. Co-production and audience engagement were core to all aspects of the redevelopment and the approach has resulted in changes in practice and project outcomes. While challenging at times, ultimately the aim is to create a rich and diverse museum experience.		
11.00-11.15	Comfort break		
11.15-12.45	Listening to Londoners: Developing a new Museum of London, Elly Magson, Lauren Souter and Vandana Patel (Museum of London): The Museum of London aims to work with 100,000 Londoners to inform the development of the new museum, opening in 2024. Participation, collaboration and co-curation opportunities are some of the ways in which the museum will involve Londoners in this project. But what does it mean to engage with this many people, and how is the museum doing it? Delegates will learn more about the engagement strategy for the new Museum of London; how the Talking Point format can be used to facilitate visitor research; and how the museum is using new and existing research to inform their methodology and decision-making. There will also be an opportunity to visit the museum following the session.		
12.45-13.45	Lunch		
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14.45-15.30	Putting the purpose into participation, Irenie Ekkeshis and Katie Dunstan (New Citizenship Project): Over the last year, six institutions – Wellcome Collection, Tredegar House, Royal Pavilion and Museums (Brighton & Hove), Fountains Abbey, The National Archives and York Minster – have worked together with New Citizenship Project to explore what it <i>really</i> means to think of people as participants in shaping cultural heritage, and institutions as places for that to happen. This workshop will invite and equip attendees – using a mix of theory and practice – to start the journey towards “purposeful participation” in their institutions.		
15.30–15.45	Closing remarks from the VSG Committee		