

From the Margins to the Core? Conference

The Sackler Conference for Arts Education



Comments Board:

“Having the communication support that the V&A kindly provided for me, meant that I was able to understand and participate fully at the conference. I, as a result, enjoyed my two days there being at the core, rather than in the margins!”

- Jenny Winterbottom - Community Liaison, Equality & Access Officer, National Army Museum

“I was at the 'Margins to the Core' conference and myself and my colleagues found it so inspiring and influential in our work.”

- Andrea Cunningham, Head of Informal Learning and Access, National Maritime Museum

“Great conference! I've returned to Bradford with a bagful of interesting contacts and a book full of ideas. Organisation faultless. Friendliness and efficiency of V&A staff.”

- Irna Qureshi, Heritage Consultant

“Thank you for all you did to make the conference a success! It truly was memorable. It was one of the top two conferences I've attended in my thirty year career.”

- Professor Amy Levin, Northern Illinois University, US

“I feel inspired, troubled and challenged – a heady combination.”

- Conference delegate

“My compliments, a very interesting and successful conference”

- Sir Mark Jones, Director, V&A

“The conference was truly inspirational.”

- Christine Reich, Museum of Science, Boston

"I really enjoyed the conference and applaud your efforts in co-organizing it. It was high quality and well run."

- Carrie McGee from MoMA New York

"Great responses from the conference in London. It had real impact. Quite captivating and stimulating. Not something I usually feel about conference in general!"

- Jane Samuels - Access Manager at the British Museum

"This was the best conference I have been to in five years. It has raised the bar of diversity practice and thought."

- Conference delegate

"Congratulations again on a very interesting and well-organised conference."

- Amy de Joi, Executive Director of Development and Communications, National Museums Liverpool

"Think it is one of the most efficiently organised conferences I have ever attended. The atmosphere was friendly and open. I made lots of very useful contacts. The catering was very satisfactory indeed; and I really enjoyed the break out sessions interspersed with the lectures. The V&A staff were all really friendly and helpful as well. The 3 days were inspiring."

- Rovianne Matovu, Information Officer, The National Gallery

"Congratulations on an excellent conference. You should be very pleased. The buzz was incredibly positive and there was lots of really excellent sessions."

- Christopher Wilk, Keeper, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion Department, V&A

"I was really delighted to take part in this successful and inspiring conference. Congratulations on making it such a success!"

- Lucy Shaw, Diversify and Monument Fellowship Co-ordinator, Museums Association

"I really enjoyed the experience and learned a lot. We think we have helped make some progress in this area, but there is always so much more to do."

- Carol Souter, Chief Executive, HLF

We both found the keynotes and breakout sessions we attended really interesting and thought provoking. Also very well organised and attended."

- Paul Hamlyn Foundation

"As usual there were very few opportunities for real dialogue and discussion generated by audience questions and breakout discussions. The breakouts tended to be largely focused on presenting to the audience and not a reciprocal exchange of ideas, info (esp best practice). Also closing speakers really should attend keynote presentations to get a clearer understanding of how to summarise and reflect key themes."

- Conference delegate

"Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the conference. I really enjoyed - and felt inspired by - the couple of days I attended. It also seemed to be extremely well organised and the sessions I contributed to went smoothly because of this."

- Helen Mears, Keeper of World Art, Royal Pavilion & Museum, Brighton & Hove

"Thank you for organising everything so well and for including our presentation in the conference. I really enjoyed the day I attended and would have liked to have stayed for the other days if I could have spared the time."

- Henrietta Hine, Head of Public Programmes, The Courtauld Institute of Art

"It was a great pleasure meeting you and participating in the conference. Bravo for the organization and good spirit. Let's continue our reflections in the future."

- Julien Anfruns, Director General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and President of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)

"I was very pleased to be involved in an event that had such breadth and energy. My congratulations to the organisers."

- Naseem Khan, OBE

"Congratulations on a great event!"

- John Vincent, Founder of 'The Network' an organisation tackling social inclusion"

"(The conference) was a great success and has truly raised the bar for diversity and its importance across all aspects of museum life. I think it has fired up the debate somewhat and hopefully the V&A will see this as an opportunity to take up the gauntlet and lead the way!"

- Janet Browne, African/Caribbean Programme Manager, V&A

"It was great to catch up with old friends and make some new ones."

- Elizabeth Crooke, Senior Lecturer Museum and Heritage Studies, University of Ulster

"Thank you SO much for inviting me to contribute to such an enjoyable and interesting conference. It was a privilege to be part of such rich discussions and I was only sorry not to be able to stay for the last day."

- Victoria Hollows, Museum Manager, Gallery of Museum Art, Glasgow

"Many congratulations on organizing such an ambitious and successful event...."

- Sandy Nairne, Director of National Portrait Gallery

"Thanks so much for everything - was a wonderful conference which has left a lasting impression on me. Great lectures, workshops, red thread throughout the 3

days, lots of inspiration, meeting so many interesting new people, the planning, food, logistics was super. I've got too many new ideas for the future now."

- Ted Hesselbom (Museum Director), Röhsska Museum, Sweden

"Thank you so much for putting on this conference, bringing together, well, such a diverse group who are all committed to the same important issue. I just wish it had gone further outside the boundaries of art gallery/cultural history type museums and perhaps been less object focused. It would also have been good if the more academic speakers had taken the diverse audience into consideration - using more accessible language and more interactive workshop models so there was less being talked at going on. Overall though, the transatlantic travels jet lag was totally worth it!"

- Conference delegate

"I love how it was a mix of serious lectures, performances (Mat (Fraser) was awesome), interactive workshops and overall collegial information sharing."

- Conference delegate

"...Meeting other delegates, active discussions and learning about other areas of diversity I was not aware of before."

- Conference delegate

"Variety of subjects debated – international context, breaks were long enough to meet people and network."

- Conference delegate



Jointly organised with University of Leicester's School of Museum Studies