



2023 Annual Conference Evaluation report

Overview

Surveys were completed via written evaluations at the conference and SurveyMonkey after the conference. We received 34 responses, 23 written and 11 online. With 93 attendees, that is a 37% response rate.

The survey featured 10 questions and included feedback about the conference, work history, geographic location, and demographics. There were several open-ended questions for feedback. We also asked two questions on the registration form, how they heard about the conference, and whether this was their first OMA conference.

Trends

Overall, respondents enjoyed the sessions and keynote speaker, and learned something to help them take concrete steps. Most of the concerns stated were around the conference venue and food.

Concrete actions

Many attendees listed concrete steps they would take based on sessions they attended. The most common were: to tackle collections backlogs/issues; connect with people they met; and join OMA as volunteer or board member. Respondents named Antonio Huerta, ODoT and Kenny Adams as persons to reach out to.

- "Connect with ODOT about Section 106 overlapping with public art."
- "I might finally get a handle on wrangling part of my collection this year."
- "Will reach out to Antonio Huerta for potential work together."

Sessions

When asked which aspects of the conference were most useful to your work, respondents selected every option, with the most popular being keynote speaker Kenny Adams (76%); networking breaks (59%); the evening event at High Desert Museum (44%); and the sessions Confronting a problematic legacy: Bush House Museum (44%), Building interactives on a budget for small museums (44%), and Collections management for rogues (41%).

- "I will connect with Kenny and his organization for a possible future exhibit."
- "I definitely feel a bit more confident in tackling projects around the museum that I felt I couldn't accomplish or had to wait to accomplish to do it "right". Better is better than not started at all."

Concerns

There were several issues about the venue space. The main room felt too large, and the second session room felt too small. There were also issues with temperature control and lack of chairs and tables.

Another concern was food-related. Several respondents asked for the food ingredients to be labeled for all items served.

Suggestions for future conferences

Several respondents wanted the conference to be longer, 2 full days. They also wanted more time and space for networking throughout the day, with facilitated activities for meeting others.

In terms of topics for the next conference, respondents suggested: incorporating DEAI into the museum structure (hiring, HR issues, pay equity); budgeting and finances; and opportunities (roundtable) for discussing challenges and problems, such as difficult employees/volunteers and boards and leadership resistant to change.

Demographics

More than half of the conference registrants reported that this was their first OMA conference (54%). From the conference evaluations, we learned that most (59%) work full-time at museums. Respondents have been working in the museum field for 10-15 years (29%); 5-9 years (26%) and 1-4 years (24%). Their work places were rural (35%); suburban (29%); and urban (26%).

Of the respondents who answered this question, 27 listed their gender as female and 2 each listed male, she/they, and non-binary. Respondents listed their ethnic heritage as non-Hispanic White (27); Latinx or Hispanic (2); East Asian or Asian (2); Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American (1); with two respondents choosing more than one.