

Sustainability: Governance, Relevance and the Environment

Environment and Climate, and Historic House and Sites professional networks of the American Alliance of Museums
second annual Historic House Summit

Monday, February 4

8:30 – 9:30 Registration; Coffee and Networking

9:30 – 10:15 Keynote

Sustainability: Climate Action, Resilience, Accountability
Joel Hoffman, Executive Director, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

10:15 – 10:30 Objective and Overview for the Day: Environmental Sustainability

10:30 – 12:00 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action at your historic house or site: A Primer

Presenters: Sarah Sutton, Principal, Sustainable Museums and Cultural Institutions Sector Lead, *We Are Still In* and Stephanie Shapiro, Chair, AAM's Environment and Climate Network

Historic Houses and Sites make up the majority of AAM's membership and hold some of the most responsibility and challenges; also, are part of the solution. We are sharing practical information that can be replicated at your historic house or site and examples of how the field is making waves to preserve the future and face these challenges.

10:30 – 11:00: Defining sustainability and its various definitions for historic houses and sites

11:00 – 11:05 Break

11:05 – 11:35: Identify opportunities to start tackling sustainability at your historic house or site

11:35 – 11:40 Break

11:40 – 12:00: How to join the *We are Still In* coalition and why cross-sector collaboration is key to the climate action conversation

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Benchmarking 101

Presenter: Angela A. Moore, Facilities and Sustainability Coordinator, Missouri History Museum

This hand-on presentation will tackle the "why?" and "how?" of benchmarking your institution's resources. We'll have a tutorial on the free EnergyStar® PortfolioManager® and tracking your water and energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions and learn how EnergyStar® is collaborating with cultural institutions. Learn how an organization's results are being used to ensure the most efficient management of the environment, their systems, and for a sustainability analysis. This interactive tutorial and presentation will help you take the first steps to benchmarking.

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2:00 – 3:00 Tour Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

Break into small groups to explore a variety of sustainability efforts underway at Vizcaya, specifically in the Village. These tours will serve as practical, interactive case studies to demonstrate the application of theory to practice.

1. Conservation Lab Part I: Visit Vizcaya's conservation studio and overview of recent projects, hands-on demo with teaching collection (VMG Collections Care)
2. Baydrift Research Project Part I: visit nearby location to deploy drift cards or coconuts into Biscayne Bay (VMG staff cars) and introduction to the research partnership to determine where debris on Vizcaya shoreline originates (VMG Community Programs)
3. Preserving Heritage Part I: preserving the past of the Village in 21st century urban core; preservation of heritage; hands-on seed to table activity (VMG Interpretation)
4. Technology, Preservation & Interpretation Part I: Village HABS project; TBC. (VMG Digital Initiatives)

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:45 Sustainability Slam

Choose two of three sustainability-related topics and jump in for an interactive, lively conversation!

Round 1: 3:15 – 4:00

Round 2: 4:00 – 4:45

1. **Community sustainability and climate engagement.**
Caroline Lewis, Founder & Senior Climate Advisor at The CLEO Institute and High School Director at The Cushman School
2. **Establishing an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable plan for accessible storage.**
Dr. Joelle Wickens, Preventive Conservator, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and Associate Director, Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation
Jesse Kraft, Unidel Louise Roselle Graduate Assistant, University of Delaware
3. **Planning for natural disaster from blizzards to hurricanes.**
Susan Funk, COO, Mystic Seaport Museum

4:45 – 5:00 Wrap Up

5:30 Cocktail Reception

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Tuesday, February 5

8:30 – 9:30 Registration; Coffee and Networking

9:30 – 10:15 Keynote

Sustainable Development: Climate Heritage, Historic Preservation, and Community Revitalization
Andrew S. Potts, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP.

10:15 – 10:30 Objective and Overview of the day

Operational Sustainability - Planning for your Organization Inside-Out (e.g., Finance, Strategic Planning, Disaster)

10:30 – 11:15 Financial sustainability at your historic house or site

Becky Beaulieu, Director Florence Griswold Museum

What does it mean to be *financially* sustainable? How do we best communicate the importance of financial sustainability to our board? Hear a tactical overview on the importance of financial sustainability and how to become a thriving organization for the long-term. Find out where to start and collect resources so you can kickstart your path to financial sustainability.

11:15 – 12:00 Operations Roundtable

Join one of three facilitated discussions on an operations topic!

1. **The Deaccessioning Toolkit.** Provide feedback on the draft flow chart from the “Don’t Raid the Cookie Jar: Creating Early Interventions to Prevent Deaccessioning Crises” convening in 2017.
2. **Strategic Planning and why it’s important for your organization's sustainability.** - Ann M. Loshaw, ALO Consulting
3. **Disasters and why you need a disaster recovery plan.** TBA

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Tour Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

Break into small groups to explore a variety of sustainability efforts underway at Vizcaya, specifically in the Main House and Formal Garden. These tours will serve as practical, interactive case studies to demonstrate the application of theory to practice.

1. Conservation Lab Part II: visit the pop-up collections care station in the original staff dining room and other projects in the house; explore restoration in select areas following hurricane Irma; discuss plans for conservation exhibit in the original staff dining room planned for FY20 (VMG Collections Care)
2. Baydrift Research Project Part II: visit Vizcaya’s shoreline and learn more about the research program, determine if any drift cards or coconuts released previous day arrived at shore; highlight the importance of mangrove shoreline health and community and school programs to measure debris (VMG Community Programs)
5. Preserving Heritage Part II: Explore the new preservation tour of the gardens, and other sustainable projects in gardens; explore what we are learning from new connections with descendants of pioneer families in Miami (VMG Interpretation)

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3. Technology Part II: Knight Project 3D documentation of The Barge and Swimming Pool Grotto, including a visit to the pool grotto, VR experience and overview of the project and restoration since Hurricane Irma (VMG Digital Initiatives)

2:00 – 2:45 Avoiding Staff Burnout

Jackie Ly, Museum Engagement Manager at Morven Park in Leesburg, VA (Chair)

Rebecca Gavin, Director of Education Programs at Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT

Bethany Hawkins, COO of AASLH in Nashville, TN

Kelsey Brow, Curator at King Manor Museum, New York, NY

We can't have a discussion about the long-term sustainability of museums and historic sites without exploring the threats facing our precious human resources... our staff and volunteers. Burn out is real, and it can deeply impact a museum's ability to remain solvent or effective in fulfilling its mission and serving its community in a meaningful way. Panelists will share their challenges fending off emotional and physical fatigue, financial strain, and the feelings of underappreciation, and then help us dive deeper into the strategies to maintain staff morale and practice self-care in a world where a healthy work/life balance is a commodity. This session on the challenges and solutions facing the field will not end in despair, we promise. We may not have all the answers, and there may be roadblocks to achieving an ideal work environment, but we aim to leave you with many new tips and tricks for your "burn out prevention toolkit!"

2:45 – 3:00 Wrap Up