

# Time Portal Session Proposals

How to pitch the future at AAM 2020

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# Goals

- Explain the concept
- Outline the process
- Answer questions
- Help you prepare an awesome session proposal!



GEORGE W. P. HALL PRESENTS  
H.G. WELLS'  
**THE TIME  
MACHINE**

in futuristic METROCOLOR

**YOU  
WILL  
ORBIT  
INTO  
THE**



STARRING

**ROD TAYLOR**

ALAN YOUNG YVETTE MIMIELY



# Time Portal Sessions Are

- Set in a particular year (e.g., 2040, 2060, 2100!)
- Reflect a specific vision of the future
- Presented in an immersive manner
- Explore how particular issues have played out in this future

# MUSEUM

A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

Written  
Immersive  
Fiction

2040

# Why immersive futures???

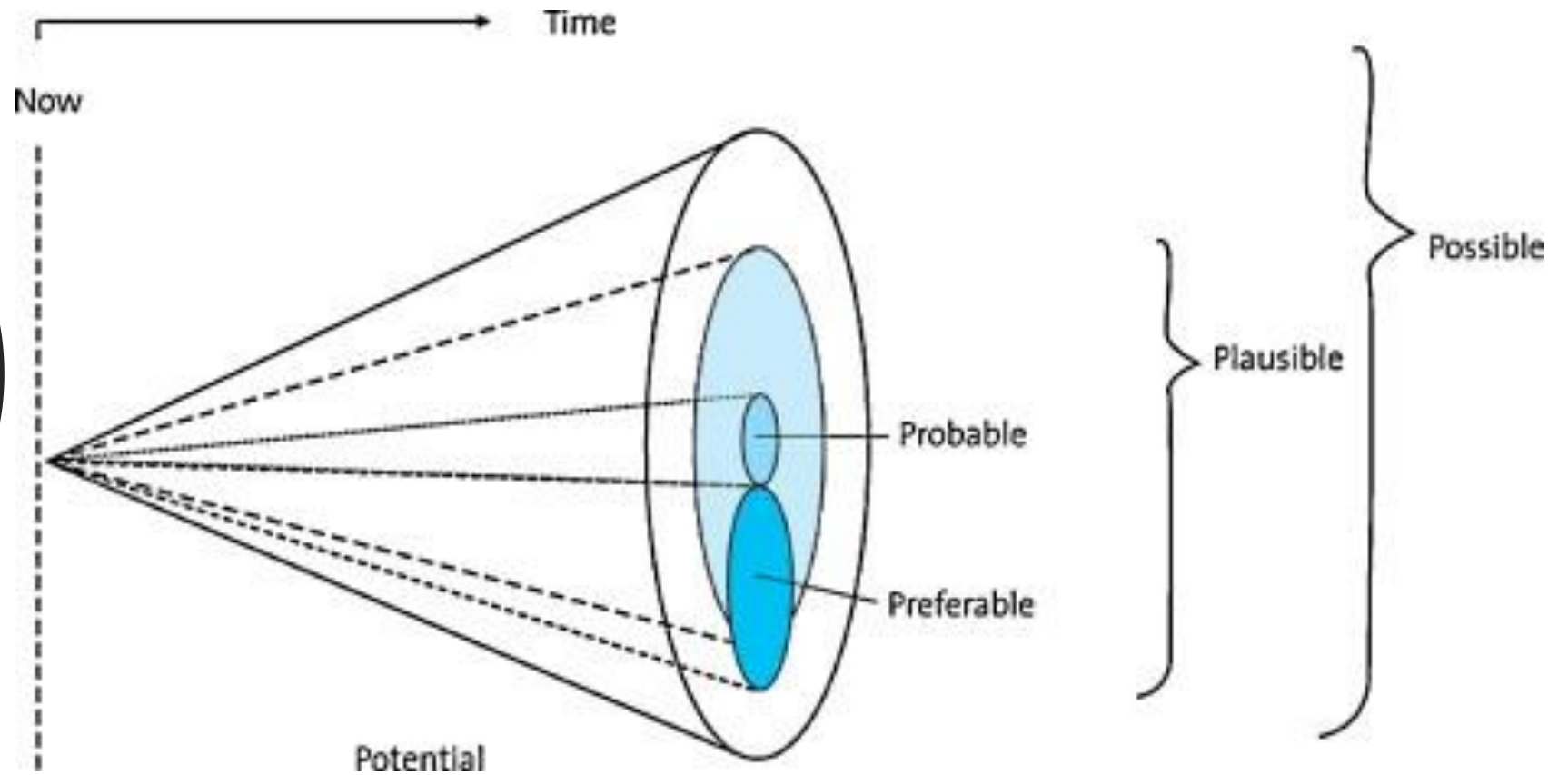
- Foster innovative perspectives
- Challenge assumptions
- Expand our thinking
- Provoke meaningful conversations
- Create the future

# Some Ground Rules

- You will be speaking in the present tense
- *Implying* what has happened between now and your chosen year, but focused on “current” events/issues
- Only name a real museum with their consent: otherwise, use fictitious organizations



Specific futures: e.g. scenarios





# Scenarios are stories that:

- Describe potential futures
- Explore important situations and problems that exist in some way in the present
- Help organizations practice resilient, adaptable thinking
- Improve strategic planning

Borrowing  
existing  
scenarios

# TRENDSWATCH

## THE SCENARIO EDITION

A TOOL FOR MUSEUM PLANNING



# Or Create Your Own!

- Critical elements of the world
- Backstory for your panel
- A setting in which a good story can be told
- A plausible description of what **MIGHT** happen



# Session Proposals

- NOT via the main AAM2020 session proposal site
- Link to Session Proposal Form in the CFM Blog post about the Time Portal: <https://www.aam-us.org/2019/08/16/a-futurist-call-for-proposals-at-aam2020/>
- Email completed form to emerritt (at) aam-us (dot) org
- Use “Time Portal Proposal” in the subject line

# Session Basics

- Sessions are 60 minutes long, including Q&A.
- (There is one 75 minute session slot available, that will be assigned to one of the successful proposals later in the process.)
- Room format will be raised platform in front of auditorium-style seating. Can be arranged between sessions to have a head table, just chairs, just a podium, or no furniture.

# Session proposal form

## Timeframe

This session is set in the year:  (2040 or later)

## Specific Future

If this session takes place in one of the futures described in the [scenario edition of \*TrendsWatch\*](#), indicate which one:

- Our Bright Future
- Fragmentation
- A New Equilibrium
- Wild Times

If the session takes place in a future you have envisioned, give a very brief description of this future here. (200 word max.):



# Who will be you in this year?

Create fictional personas for your presenters. Who are they “playing” in this future? Think about:

- Demographics. How will this person illustrate the diversity of our field?
- Position. What title does this person have? How might this illustrate traditional or new roles in museums?
- Background: create a 2 – 3 line bio about training, career path.
- You don't need to know all your actual presenters right now, but add any you have found.

# Session proposal form

## **Fictional presenters**

Presenters will play the roles of: (e.g., a museum director, educator, fundraiser, a community activist, philanthropist, government official). Be as specific as possible.

## **Actual presenters**

If you have identified who will play the parts outlined above, list your collaborators here (name, title, affiliation):



# What issue(s) do you want to explore?

- How museums have succeeded (or not) at DEAI
- Who is visiting museums?
- Who works in museums?
- What roles do museums play in society?



# Session proposal form

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## Area of focus:

- How museums are adapting to cultural change (attitudes, behavior, preferences)
- How museums are being shaped by new technologies
- How museums are adapting/helping their communities adapt to environmental trends
- Policy and government affairs, museum advocacy
- Collections and Collections Stewardship
- Community Engagement
- DEAI
- Decolonization
- Disaster Preparedness
- Exhibitions
- Financial Sustainability
- Museum Workforce, including training
- Social Justice
- Visitor Experiences
- Other (specify):



# How do you want to stage this immersion?

- Could be a “regular” session
- Could mimic another part of the annual meeting (award ceremony, presentation in the Solution Center, business meeting of a professional network, etc.)
- Feel free to innovate. (Maybe one of your panelists is a hologram!)

# Session proposal form

**Format:**

panel

lecture/keynote

interview/moderated discussion

presentation of research results

other (specify):





# Questions?

Email [emeritt \(at\) aam-us \(dot\) org](mailto:emeritt@aaam-us.org)

