Time Portal Session Proposals

How to pitch the future at AAM 2020

Elizabeth Merritt, VP Strategic Foresight & Founding Director, Center for the Future of Museums

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Goals

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

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 emerritt (at) aam-us (dot) org