

**EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY THEN, NOW, NEXT:
EDUCATION AND THE PUBLIC DIMENSION OF MUSEUMS**

Live Web Conference

November 6, 2008

PRESENTER PROFILES

Introduction:



Bonnie Pitman
The Eugene McDermott Director
Dallas Museum of Art

Bonnie Pitman assumed the role of director at the Dallas Museum of Art in June, 2008, after joining the museum as deputy director in October, 2000. Pitman has been responsible for directing the curatorial, education, collections, exhibitions, publications, and conservation departments that lie at the core of the Museum's mission. Her work has culminated in the Center for Creative Connections that will provide innovative models for art education and interpretation with programming focusing on the creative process of the artist and the process of engaging with works of art. Pitman has been a leader in the art museum field for 25 years, having served as a curator, educator, and administrator at the University of California's Berkeley Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, New Orleans Museum of Art, Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the Bay Area Discovery Museum. From 1989 to 1994, Pitman chaired AAM's Task Force on Education that prepared and published the policy report *Excellence and Equity: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums*. She has served as an AAM trustee and vice president, served as a member of and chaired the AAM's Accreditation Commission for 12 years, and in April 2008, was elected to the AAM board of directors. She was on the board of the Association of Children's Museums and was a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Getty Center for Education in the Arts from 1988 to 1997. From 1994 to 2003, Pitman was a consultant to the Pew Charitable Trust's Program for Art Museums and Communities. She authored the book, *New Forums: Art Museums & Communities* and "Muses, Memories, Museums," an article in *Daedalus*, and was general editor of *Presence of Mind: Museums and the Spirit of Learning*. Pitman received a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* in art history and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Sweet Briar College in Virginia in 1968. She earned a Master of Arts in art history from Tulane University in New Orleans in 1972.

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Lead Provocateur:



Elaine Heumann Gurian
Museum Consultant/Advisor
Alexandria, VA

Elaine Heumann Gurian is a consultant/advisor to a number of museums and visitor centers including Nassau County Parks and Recreation, NY; the Museum of the City of London; the National Children's Museum, Washington DC; The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian; The National Discovery Museum, Thailand; National Museum of Australia; the Jewish Museum Berlin; the national archive of Guatemala; the Museum of New Zealand; the Museum of World Cultures, Gothenburg, Sweden; and the Dubai Municipality Children's Museum. In 2007 she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to work with Fundación TyPA in Buenos Aires to create a bilingual museum training electronic resource in Argentina. In 2006, Gurian was named Visiting Scholar at the University of Michigan Graduate Program in Museum Studies and was chosen to be one of the keynote speakers for the International Council of Museums (ICOM) conference in Vienna. In 2006, Routledge published her volume, *Civilizing the Museum: the Collected Writings of Elaine Heumann Gurian*. Also in 2006, Gurian was inducted as one of the 100 Centennial Honor Roll members by the American Association of Museums, who also honored her with the Distinguished Service to Museums Awards in 2004. Ms. Gurian has served as the acting director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science; deputy director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; deputy director for public program planning for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian; deputy assistant secretary for museums at the Smithsonian; director of the Exhibit Center at the Boston Children's Museum, and director of education at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Moderators:



Jonathan Finkelstein
Founder and Executive Producer, LearningTimes.org
President, The LearningTimes Network
New York

Jonathan works closely with museums, educational institutions, libraries and other organizations to grow and maintain online learning communities and to foster human interaction, professional development and learning online. His recent book, *Learning in Real Time* (Wiley/Jossey-Bass), translates over ten years of experience facilitating real-time online learning into a practical resource guide for anyone facilitating or teaching online. Finkelstein also authored the chapter on live online outreach in the *The Digital Museum: A Think Guide*, published by AAM. He can be seen as the host of the "Real Time Minute" (www.realtimeminute.com), a podcast series about online collaboration, and as the moderator and producer of many live webcasts, online conferences and 3D virtual world events for museum and education professionals. Finkelstein, who is the son of two New York City public school teachers, is a Certified Synchronous Training Professional (CSTP) and received his AB degree with honors from Harvard University.

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Greg Stevens
Assistant Director, Professional Education
American Association of Museums
Washington, DC



In his role at AAM, Greg Stevens is responsible for developing and overseeing seminars, workshops and e-learning programs for museum practitioners across the country, as well as career development-related activities at the AAM annual meeting. Greg is also an adjunct faculty member at The George Washington University (GWU), facilitating workshops on professional engagement strategies and object-based teaching. Prior to AAM, Greg was principal of Connect the Dots Creative Services. Previously, Greg held education positions at the National Museum of the United States Army, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, National Building Museum, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and Kellogg Performing and Visual Arts School in San Diego. Greg is the recipient of numerous awards for performance excellence, arts achievement, and educational service. Greg earned his MAT in Museum Education from GWU and his BA in Applied Arts and Sciences/Theatre Design from San Diego State University. Greg has also been a working artist and theatre designer for over 20 years.

Presenters:



Cynthia Copeland
Principal
The OutSourced MUSE
New York

Cynthia R. Copeland is a public historian, interpretive specialist, and independent consultant. Her concentrations include Afro-American, American, urban and museum studies, historic preservation and educational technology. She has made significant contributions to the New York Historical Society (NYHS), including directing a digital learning project featuring NYHS collections that illustrate the story of the American Revolution. With nearly twenty years of experience in cultural interpretation, Cynthia has curated exhibitions and developed and written curriculum guides, educational resources, public programs and walking and boat tours about New York City and American history, with an emphasis on integrating primary sources. Ms. Copeland is an adjunct professor in the history department at the New School University. She also co-founded and was the managing editor of *Zuzu*, a children's newspaper, based on reader submissions relating to cultural heritage and current issues. Among Ms. Copeland's professional affiliations are local and national organizations working towards the preservation, acknowledgement and dissemination of the significance of history in contemporary society and for museum education advocacy.

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Marian Godfrey
Senior Director, Culture Initiatives
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia



From 2004 to 2008 Marian served as Pew's Managing Director, Culture and Civic Initiatives; and from 1989 through 2003, as Program Director for Culture. Previously, Ms. Godfrey was Manager of the theater collaborative Mabou Mines, for which she also produced a feature film, "Dead End Kids: A Story of Nuclear Power" (1980-86); Instructor in Drama at New York University Tisch School of the Arts (1980-87); Director of Development for Dance Theater Workshop (1983-85); and Managing Director of Ensemble Studio Theater (1977-80). She received her MFA in Theater Administration from the Yale School of Drama in 1975 and BA *magna cum laude* in English Literature from Radcliffe in 1970. Ms. Godfrey currently chairs the Arts Policy Roundtable of Americans for the Arts and is a member of the boards of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the League of American Orchestras and the Center for Cultural Innovation in Los Angeles.; previously she served on the boards of the Maine College of Art, Grantmakers in the Arts (chair, 2000-2002) and Theatre Communications Group.



Joseph Gonzales
Special Projects Manager
Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial
Philadelphia, PA

Joseph Gonzales joined the Fleisher Art Memorial staff in May 2008 and is serving as Special Projects Manager to lead research and programming initiatives to increase and enhance arts engagement among underserved families in Southeast Philadelphia as part of a four-year Wallace Foundation Excellence Award work. Much of his seventeen years in the museum field have been in education, community outreach, and interpretation for art, history, natural history, and children's museums in Texas and Philadelphia. His academic work is grounded in his experience over the past decade creating content for BBH Exhibits in San Antonio, as Ethnographer and Guest Curator at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania/Balch Institute in Philadelphia, and as Latino Outreach Coordinator developing and implementing cultural and community programs and interpretive materials for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He is an active member of AAM, the National Association of Latino Arts & Culture, and serves as a member of the board of directors of Raices Culturales LatinoAmericanas, and as a member of the National Advisory Committee for SanAnto Cultural Arts. Earlier this year he earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Temple University.

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Julie Hart
Senior Director, Field-wide Services
American Association of Museums
Washington, DC



Julie Hart has been engaged in AAM's standards and excellence efforts since 1996. She served as the Accreditation Program's assistant coordinator and coordinator before becoming assistant director of Accreditation in 2001. In 2008 she took over an expanded portfolio of responsibilities including Accreditation, the Museum Assessment Program, Peer Review Program, International Programs, and standards and ethics issues, as senior director for museum standards and excellence. Through her 11+ years working with the Accreditation Program, she has been privy to the detailed operational practices and documents of several hundreds of museums, of all types and sizes, gaining a wide perspective on the trends, issues, and current standards and best practices in the museum and non-profit world. Ms. Hart has delivered numerous presentations on accreditation and standards, taught AAM's recurring two-day professional education seminar *Secrets of Accreditation*, written for various museum association publications on accreditation, and is a member of the U.S. Army Certification Team Report Review Panel. Julie is also a member of the Association for State and Local History task force that is developing a standards program for history museums and historic sites. Prior to joining AAM, Julie pursued her interest in American art and museum work at the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, and her college galleries. She holds an M.A. in Art History from The George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a B.A. in Art History from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



Randi Korn
Founding Director
Randi Korn & Associates, Inc. (RK&A)
Alexandria, VA

RK&A is a company that conducts all kinds of evaluations in museums. Randi enjoys sharing her knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm for evaluation and intentional practice at conferences, in museum journals, and in lectures at The George Washington University, where she was an adjunct instructor in the Museum Education Program for 18 years. She is committed to helping museums pursue intentional practice and evaluate the ways in which they are achieving their missions. Ultimately she strives to help museums demonstrate, with evidence, the value of museums in people's lives and communities.

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Mary Ellen Munley
Principal
MEM and Associates
Oak Park, IL



Mary Ellen Munley has more than 30 years experience as a museum educator, administrator, and audience research and evaluation specialist. Most recently she was director of education at The Field Museum in Chicago. Before that she served as special assistant to the commissioner for cultural education at the New York State Education Department and chief of museum education at the New York State Museum. Currently she is the sole proprietor of MEM and Associates, a museum consulting company dedicated to enhancing the value of museums for individuals and communities. Clients include the New York Hall of Science; Chicago History Museum; Garfield Park Conservatory; Illinois State Museum; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and National September 11 Memorial and Museum. Ms. Munley is author of dozens of books, chapters, articles and presentations. Ms. Munley served for four years as the national chair of the AAM Committee on Education (EdCom) and is a recipient of the AAM award for excellence in the practice of museum education. She is also immediate past president of the Visitor Studies Association (VSA) and is a member of The Museum Group. In her community, Ms. Munley serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation; is a trained volunteer who conducts tours for Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio and Unity Temple; provided pro bono services to the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation concerning strategic direction for programs; and served on the Selection Committee for the executive director for Unity Temple Restoration Foundation.



John Russick
Senior Curator
Chicago History Museum

John was the vice chair of the Chicago History Museum's Visioning Committee, 2006-2008. He has twenty years of museum experience, including positions at Chicago's Field Museum and the National Museum of American History. He was the lead curator for the exhibition, *Sensing Chicago*, which was recognized in the 19th Annual Excellence in Exhibition Competition, 2007. In 2006, he participated in the Getty Leadership Institute's, *Museum Leaders: the Next Generation* program. He has twice won awards for his exhibit label writing and currently serves on the board of AAM's Curators' Committee. He recently published the book, *Historic Photos of Chicago Crime: The Capone Era*.

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Nina Simon
Principal
Museum 2.0
Santa Cruz, CA

Nina Simon is an independent museum experience designer experienced in museums, gaming, and emerging technologies. She is the principal of Museum 2.0, a design firm that works with museums worldwide using social technology to create dynamic, audience-driven exhibitions and programs. Previously, Nina served as curator at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, CA and was the experience development specialist for the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, focusing on the *Operation Spy* immersive experience. Nina also consults with The Electric Sheep Company, a virtual worlds experience design firm. Nina runs the Museum 2.0 blog (www.museumtwo.com), an online resource on museums, participatory design, and new technologies. Nina is on the board of the National Association of Museum Exhibitions (NAME), and has presented at national and international conferences on innovation in museums. Her work has appeared in major museum magazines and journals including *Museum News*, *Museums and Social Issues*, and *ASTC Dimensions*. Before working in museums, Nina was an electrical engineer at NASA and an award-winning performance poet. She holds a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Carol Stapp
Director
Museum Education Program
The George Washington University
Washington, DC



Director of the Museum Education Program at The George Washington University since 1983, Carol B. Stapp, Ph.D., has published in *Museum News*, *Curator*, *The Museum Journal*, *Historic Preservation Forum*, *Visual Arts Research*, and *History News*, in addition to serving as Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Museum Education*. Currently appointed to the Board of the AAM Standing Professional Committee on Education (EdCom), Carol was a Guest Expert at the NPS National Interpretation and Evaluation Summit and most recently organized and moderated "Writing for Professional Publication," the lead panel for the first online museum education conference. Additionally, she is serving on the Library of Congress Professional Development Review Committee and will deliver the keynote speech this December at the Environmental Learning Network Forum in Fukuoka, Japan.

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Sonnet Takahisa
Director of Education
National September 11 Memorial & Museum
New York

As Director of Education at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, Ms. Takahisa will oversee the interpretation of the Memorial Museum's collections and exhibitions, and engage diverse audiences through the development, implementation and promotion of educational programming at the Museum. From 2003 - 2006, she was a senior program officer and a consultant for Arts and Cultural Partnerships at New Visions for Public Schools, involved in creating and supporting 120 new small high schools. For 10 years she was founding co-director of The NYC Museum School, a public school with 410 6-12th grade students from a range of socio-economic and academic backgrounds. NYCMS students took full advantage of the wealth of resources in their partner museums (Brooklyn Museum, Children's Museum of Manhattan, American Museum of Natural History, and South Street Seaport Museum) and cultural institutions throughout the city. Ms. Takahisa has over 30 years of experience in museums and schools; she has served on numerous review panels, boards, and as a consultant to museums, arts organizations, schools, and afterschool programs. She worked as an educator at the Boston Children's Museum, Seattle Art Museum, and Brooklyn Museum.