

Insider's Look at Coloring Outside the Lines: Pre-conference chat

Friday, March 2, 2012

Alice Whiteside: Welcome, everyone, to our lunchtime chat! We'll be getting started shortly

Patrick Tomlin: I'll give folks a couple minutes more to find there way in before making introductions.

Patrick Tomlin: *their

Patrick Tomlin: first typo of the chat award goes to me. :)

Stephanie F: whew! glad that's out of the way!

Victoria S.: Me too :D

Alice Whiteside: someone had to do it :)

Alice Whiteside: For those of you who are still listed as anonymous presidents+numbers, you can change your nickname by typing "/nick Your Name" (without quotation marks!)

Patrick Tomlin: Alright, I've got 4 minutes after, so I guess we'll go ahead and get started...
Hello

everyone! Welcome to today's ARLIS/NA lunchtime chat, "Insider's Look at Coloring Outside the Lines," all about the upcoming annual ARLIS/NA conference in Toronto. We've snagged Stephanie Frontz, conference Program Co-chair, and Victoria Sigurdson, conference Publicity Coordinator, to share their advice and to answer questions or comments you might have about conference-related events.

Victoria S.: We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone to Toronto!

Patrick Tomlin: Stephanie and Victoria, do you want to say a little bit about your roles in the conference to begin?

Stephanie F: We have planned 20 Sessions, culled from a record number of proposals submitted during the summer (at least I think it was the summer...it's all a blur at this point!)that should offer some exciting and innovative ideas for everyone.

Victoria S.: ...and the conference theme "Colouring outside the Lines" is a really great framework for the conference program.

Stephanie F: It's a very full 2 days of sessions.

Stephanie F: I like to think of it as the biggest party I've ever given...and I like to give parties.

Victoria S.: I've spoken to a number of ARLIS members who are enthusiastic about the conference via email and ARLIS' social media channels.

Stephanie F: There will be some different exhibitors this year, which should make the exhibits especially interesting!

Alice Whiteside: Do you have any advice for, say, first-time attendees who are trying to decide which of the many exciting sessions to go to?

Alice Whiteside: I know I always end up, at some point, wishing I could be in multiple places at once :)

Stephanie F: We've just posted the information on the New Voices Session, which features speakers new to the profession. That would be a good one to target.

Stephanie F: It's always nice to take advantage of those sessions specializing in local info--Canadian Art, in this case, for example.

Patrick Tomlin: That's a good idea. There's also the First-Time Attendees Reception at the Sheraton, a great place to meet other first-time attendees. It takes place from 6:15 to 7:30 on Friday, Friday, March 30.

Victoria S.: There is also the conference networking program : <http://wp.me/p1vGZC-5o>

Stephanie F: That should be a really nice event and a chance to meet the ARLIS President and other first-time attendees. I've made friends at ARLIS meetings long ago who have remained good friends for years!

Victoria S.: The ARLISNAP group is meeting on Friday at 4:00pm which would be a great place to meet other new professionals and student members who may also be first-time attendees. <http://arlisna2012.sched.org/event/009a807f720eef8091c67df19e64df2b>

Stephanie F: good idea!

Hillary W: Further to that, I'm curious as a first time attendee to know how to get involved in committees and special interest groups. Just attend the meetings of groups I'm interested in?

Patrick Tomlin: The first time--the first couple of times, actually--that I attended the conference, I took part in the networking program. It was very helpful. I can vouch for it!

Stephanie F: Tours are another good way to meet people...sitting on a bus gives you chance to talk, etc. Walking around and sharing ideas outside the confines of the sessions, etc.

Alice Whiteside: Re:Hillary - yes! Attend meetings and just talk with people

mcnama: Related to the tours and the wonderful programming scheduled for us, will our conference badges permit free admission to the museums at other times than those scheduled for events?

Hillary W: Thanks! I'm excited to get involved

Stephanie F: Yes, definitely go to the meetings of groups that you're interested in...express ideas, etc. They will be welcomed!

Stephanie F: I know the AGO is offering 50% reduction in the admission...I will have to verify what that amounts to again...Victoria, do you remember? I'm not sure about the other museums...maybe we'll send out an email about that???

mcnama: Thanks, museum entrance information will be welcome!

Victoria S.: Yes, an email on the listserv went out about the AGO offer last week, it amount to I believe around \$9.50 off for regular adult admission. We have more information on exhibits and events on during the conference at <http://www.arlisna.org/toronto2012/aboutToronto3.html>

Victoria S.: I'm happy to get that information out there again :)

Alice Whiteside: thanks for the link, Victoria! I hadn't seen that page yet

Alice Whiteside: I'm curious - are there other-first time attendees with us today?

Alice Whiteside: *other first-time

Stephanie F: I just checked again...normal admission fee for AGO is \$19.50.

Patrick Tomlin: Speaking of events outside of the conference, is it still possible to register for tours?

Stephanie F: Yes, yes, definitely! Even if you've already registered for the conference.

Stephanie F: Most of the tours have a registration deadline of March 7th. But the Buffalo Tour really doesn't have a deadline...so sign up!

Victoria S.: And the Buffalo Tour could possibly save on travel costs if you fly into Buffalo and join up with the tour there.

Stephanie F: It's possible that what you save in airfare could actually pay for the tour!

Stephanie F: and getting a bus back to Buffalo Airport from Toronto is easy, as I understand it.

Teresa B: I assume using the ATMs will be the best way to get Canadian Dollars?

Victoria S.: Yes, I think ATMs or visiting your bank before you depart are your best bets.

mcnama: Curious - how many attendees are we expecting for the conference?

Stephanie F: between 400-450, probably

mcnama: Thanks, that's 400-450 opportunities to network!

Patrick Tomlin: Before I forget--early registration for the conference ends March 7th as well. That's next Wednesday. Another way to save \$\$ \$100 off regular registration costs for ARLIS members and non-members alike.

Stephanie F: Yes, so if you haven't registered yet, do so now!

Victoria S.: We've been going through the program by themes on the listserv over the last few weeks and there are so many great sessions to choose from!

Stephanie F: the conference blog has all of this info...a handy place to review things...

Victoria S.: Excellent Stephanie! If anyone missed those thematic explorations, they are on the blog: <http://2012toronto.wordpress.com/?cat=9574>

Hillary W: I wanted to pass along a recommendation for inexpensive accommodation for those who haven't booked yet: airbnb.com - I've had good luck in the past when travelling.

Hillary W: I just had a look and there's lots of places to stay through that site in Toronto

Patrick Tomlin: Thanks, Hillary!

Victoria S.: And the special group rate at the Sheraton has been extended to March 20th.

Hillary W: It's for the more adventurous, but a great way to experience a new city.

Stephanie F: and the Sheraton has free wifi in all the guestrooms

Alice Whiteside: What about volunteer opportunities at the conference? Are there particular areas where you are looking for help?

Stephanie F: Possibly the registration desk? You don't have to be a Torontonion (?) to help out at the desk

Stephanie F: that would be a great way to meet people!

Stephanie F: You can indicate your interest in volunteering on the registration form

Victoria S.: Indeed, Stephanie! There are opportunities for Workshop Shepherds, Exhibit Hall Ambassadors, Special Events too. Contact are available on the conference web site:
<http://www.arlisna.org/toronto2012/volunteers.html>

Victoria S.: *Contacts

Alice Whiteside: great! thanks. I like the title of "shepherds"

Alice Whiteside: we're nearing the end of the hour. Does anyone have additional questions?

mcnama: Thanks to the conference organizers and volunteers, and for this session. See you in Toronto!

Stephanie F: OK, thanks to you. See you soon!

Victoria S.: I'm always around the conference blog and ARLIS' facebook page and twitter channels, so please feel free to contact me with questions there too! They are all linked up with the conference web site in the right hand menu.

Hillary W: Thanks for this. Looking forward to meeting everyone in Toronto!

Patrick Tomlin: Thanks from the ARLIS/NA Education Subcommittee for attending the chat! And thanks, too, to Stephanie and Victoria for being here today as well. We hope to see you at the conference!

Heather K: Thanks for organizing and sharing this info! Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Victoria S.: Thanks everyone and see you all soon!

Patrick Tomlin: Victoria and Stephanie's contact information is on the conference website, so folks can also email with questions if they have them beforehand.
<http://www.arlisna.org/toronto2012/>