



March 2021 Museline Transcript

Hello and Welcome to the March 2021 Edition of TAM's Museline, our digital newsletter covering all things TAM. This post will focus on the latest developments with the TAM 2021 Virtual Conference. Today I am excited to release our TAM 2021 preliminary program with most of the session information, descriptions and speakers. If you were waiting to see a fuller picture of what we have planned, well, wait no longer!

I first want to acknowledge our TAM 2021 Underwriters and Sponsors, I want to thank the following organizations:

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THANK YOU!

In our planning last summer and fall, the Texas Association of Museums and our local hosts envisioned spring 2021 as a time of renewal, but we will have to wait a little longer to be in San Antonio proper. We are truly saddened to not be in San Antonio for the 2021 Annual Meeting but hope a virtual offering will provide greater access to timely topics during a time when convening in-person still has its challenges. As part of our program, we'll be highlighting the richness of the region in hopes of enticing attendees to come back to San Antonio when we return in-person in 2023.

The conference is hosted in an online platform and has three phases, the first two days are devoted to a variety of sessions, networking opportunities, our new TAM Talks and keynotes. On Wednesday and Thursday, we invite our attendees to view a series of self-paced, digital showcases arranged by our friends in San Antonio. And finally on Friday we return for our Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony capped by reflecting on some of the highlights and takeaways from the week -- make sure to add to our Interactive White Board called a Jamboard before and during the event! We'll have an open house a few days before the event so that you can "test-drive" the Whova platform in advance and make the most of your conference experience.

In the spirit of our theme, *Roots and Reckoning: Museums Respond and Redefine*, we have invited keynotes to address the changing roles and identities of museums. We start with Secretary Lonnie Bunch from the Smithsonian Institution sitting down with Local Host Committee Chair Marise McDermott from the Witte Museum for a discussion concerning Texas and national museum matters; Christy Coleman from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will then share strategies, outcomes and missteps in the field when tackling JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) work in museums; our first ever Spanish-language keynote with the Mexican Sculptor Sebastian, and then Laura Huerta Migus from the Association of Children's Museums will present "Systemic Solutions to Systemic Problems: Unlocking Barriers to Equity in Museum Practice." You won't want to miss these thought leaders who are documenting and charting our futures.

New this year are our rebranded TAM Talks. In this format, we are providing break-out rooms for attendees interested in facilitating topic-based conversations around timely and relevant issues in the field for any stage in your career, highlights include:

- *Finding your Heading: Navigating Your Career During Difficult Times*
- *IMLS Funding Priorities*
- *Sourcing Ethically and Sustainably for Non-Profit Retail*
- *Unifying to Highlight the Work of Women Artists*
- *Working with Docents in a Pandemic*
- *America's 250th Anniversary*
- *and many more*

And finally, on Tuesday morning grab your TAM coffee mug and join President Margaret Koch along with our newest TAM Councilors as we collectively shape the future of your Association in our Members-Only Town Hall -- please help me welcome:

- Daniel Carey-Whalen, El Paso Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens
- Rorie Cartier, National Museum of the Pacific War
- Cynthia Evans, French Legation State Historic Site, Texas Historical Commission
- Ann Fortescue, International Museum of Art & Science
- Emily Wilkinson, Texas Tech University

Thank you for being a part of this important conversation and helping to underscore that at TAM, LIFELONG LEARNING WITH LIFELONG FRIENDS continues now and can happen anywhere.

Individual registrations to the virtual conference start at \$100 for members, and Institutional Members of TAM can provide access to all their staff and volunteers for a bulk tiered price based on full-time staff size. To view the complete program and register visit our [Event Page](#).

That's all for now -- See you at TAM 2021 Virtual!



Alex Freeman