November 2020 Museline Transcript

As the last of the leaves fall around the Lone Star State, I'm sad to know that a lot of us are going to spend another holiday away from our loved ones, but I am encouraged by the fact that highly effective vaccines are developing at a rapid pace. What a bear of a year, 2020 has been. As we round out the year towards a season of thanks, I want to thank you, the TAM museum community. Your membership and support are more important than ever to us. Now let's dive into the November 2020 Edition of the Texas Association of Museum's Museline our digital newsletter featuring all things T.A.M.

Last month I shared some of the ways in which TAM is responding to the myriad of challenges affecting nearly every institution I've engaged with. One of those steps includes conducting a needs assessment around virtual school programming and other technology challenges. That important work is wrapping up and I want to thank all of you who responded to our surveys and shared your thoughts and concerns at our focus groups.

Although this research is nearly complete, you still have an opportunity to shape our 2021 programming by responding to our technology needs assessment that will be open until the end of the year. We are currently analyzing that data to understand the specific obstacles that Texas museums are facing during these times. We will then report back out to our community as we state these challenges and then move towards developing professional development content that we can deliver online. In the meantime, I want to highlight some of our upcoming programs.

On December 9th, TAM is pleased to offer our next online program, Managing Museum Risks During a Pandemic. In that webinar, Joy Simpson, Higginbotham's museum and fine arts expert, will discuss how risks from pandemics are addressed in the insurance policies typically held by museums. She will be joined by TAM member, Jessica Bermes, who serves as Membership Associate & Modern Contemporaries Liaison at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Bermes will give some practical guidance by addressing how they applied risk management best practices to keep members connected & engaged with the museum through the pandemic.

And save the date for February 3rd, when a team from Hollaback!, an organization devoted to ending harassment in all its forms, presents Conflict De-escalation and Bystander Intervention. If you or your team interfaces with the public, chances are you have faced moments of escalation and not been entirely sure what to do. In this 90 minute online workshop, you will learn Hollaback!'s Observe-Breathe-Connect methodology, which will teach you how to identify

potential conflict before it escalates using their "pyramid of escalation" and how to assess whether de-escalation is the right action. Both these webinars are free for members and low cost for non-members. Make sure to sign up today!

And finally, in April, we will be returning to San Antonio or your home office for TAM 2021: Roots and Reckoning: Museums Respond and Redefine. Learn more about how we are structuring this decentralized hybrid Annual Meeting on TAM's website. Social distanced programming will be held across the city. I'd like to thank Local Host Chair Marise McDermott and the wonderful local host committee for their warm welcome. Special thanks to the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and Visit San Antonio for their generous underwriting.

Lastly, I want to be the first share the upcoming Councilor-at-Large Slate for positions 5, 6, 7, 8. Voting will begin in January and the nominees include:

Rorie Cartier, Museum Director, National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg
Daniel Carey-Whalen, Director, El Paso Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens
Cynthia Evans, Site Manager, French Legation State Historic Site, Austin
Ann Fortescue, President & Executive Director, International Museum of Art & Science, McAllen
Ami Kamara, Museum Manager, Fire Museum of Texas, Beaumont
Emily Wilkinson, Director of Public Art and Collection, Texas Tech University at Lubbock

Join or renew your membership today to be eligible to vote!

Member News
In member news, I would like to spotlight our Business Plus Member and TAM 2020 Virtual Sponsor, Re:Discovery Software. Re:discovery Software is the leading independent American provider of professional grade feature rich collection management systems. Proficio and Proficio Elements are popular and proven with 30 years of experience and a team of museum professionals behind the scenes.

TAM's mission is to strengthen the Texas museum community through collaborations, connections, professional development, and advocacy.

To Learn more about TAM Membership and become more involved go to texasmuseums.org or reach out to me directly at alex@texasmuseums.org. Be safe out there - Goodbye!