



CANADIAN
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY
-
MUSÉE
CANADIEN
DE L'HISTOIRE



SYMPOSIUM

Family Learning,
Inclusion and the Value of
PLAY IN MUSEUMS
December 4 & 5, 2019

Canadian Museum of History
Theatre and Theatre Lobby

CANADIAN
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



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Welcome

On behalf of the Canadian Museum of History, welcome to the *Symposium on Family Learning, Inclusion and the Value of Play in Museums*.

In today's world, young visitors and their families are emerging as a key museum demographic. Children who enjoy compelling museum experiences at an early age are more likely to see museums as valuable sources of learning as they grow. In addition, research continues to reinforce the importance of formative experiences during a child's early years, when cognitive, social, and physical skills begin to develop.

Museums can be ideal venues for children to acquire and hone these skills, through immersive programming that reinforces the connection between knowledge and play, while accommodating the many ways in which children navigate the world.

The Canadian Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of History is currently in the midst of an extensive renewal. The Children's Museum has 30 years' experience and knowledge but is looking outwards as well, sharing its own best practices while welcoming the expertise of others. Among these others, of course, we count all of you who have come, from near and far, to participate in the symposium. I especially want to thank the speakers, who have travelled from across Canada and from the United States, Australia and Europe to share their perspectives, as we explore the ways in which families have evolved over the last several decades and how this may impact museums; the challenge of designing playful visitor experiences for children and families; and the initiatives we can take to be more inclusive and accessible.

I hope you enjoy the symposium, and I look forward to meeting and discussing these important issues with you.

Jean-Marc Blais

Director General, Canadian Museum of History and Vice President

Symposium Program

All sessions will be in either English or French, with simultaneous interpretation.

Day 1: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

11 a.m.	Symposium Registration Theatre Lobby
1 p.m.	Opening Remarks Theatre Maureen Ward Advisor, Childhood Development and Learning Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project Canadian Museum of History Mark O'Neill President and CEO Canadian Museum of History
1:10 p.m.	Session 1: Big Ideas Families of Today and the Future Family expert Nora Spinks , CEO of the Vanier Institute of the Family, discusses modern families: what they look like, what they expect, and why museums should care. <i>(English)</i> What Exactly Is Play, and Why Is It Such a Powerful Vehicle for Learning? Play expert Dr. Peter Gray , research professor at Boston College explores the science of play, why it is important for children's development, and the consequences of its decline. <i>(English)</i>
2:10 p.m.	Questions & Discussion
2:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break & Poster Session Theatre Lobby
2:45 p.m.	Session 2: Big Ideas in Action The Circus Arts and Expanding Play Through Physical Literacy, Creativity and Resilience Patrice Aubertin , of the National Circus School explores the impact of circus training on early physical literacy, creativity and resilience. <i>(French)</i> What Makes a Playful Exhibition Experience? Paul Bowers , former Head of Exhibitions at Museums Victoria in Melbourne, Australia, discusses the role of neuroscience and consultation in the successful development of museum-based learning environments. <i>(English)</i>

3:45 p.m.	Questions & Discussion
4 p.m.	<p>Poster Session Theatre Lobby</p> <p>Visit the Canadian Museum of History</p> <p>Tour the Collections* Curatorial Building</p> <p><small>*Pre-registration required as spaces are limited. Please email symposium@historymuseum.ca to reserve your spot or register onsite at the registration desk on December 4, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</small></p>
5 p.m.	<p>Drinks Reception Canadian Children's Museum Meet the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Team and enjoy a sneak peek at renewal plans.</p>
7 p.m.	<p>Dinner (self-paying) Bistro Boréal* Canadian Museum of History</p> <p><small>*RSVP required as seating is limited. Please email symposium@historymuseum.ca by December 2nd to reserve your seat.</small></p>

Day 2: Thursday, December 5, 2019

8 a.m.	Morning Coffee and Networking Haida Gwaii Salon
8:50 a.m.	Opening Remarks Theatre Maureen Ward Advisor, Childhood Development and Learning Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project Canadian Museum of History Michael Rikley-Lancaster Executive Council Member, Ontario Museum Association Katia Macia-Valadez Director, Communications and Info-Muse Société des musées du Québec
9 a.m.	Session 3: Big Ideas in Action Creating Exhibitions for Children of the 21st Century Jörg Ehtreiber , of FRida & freD in Austria, looks at a storytelling approach to child-led, inquiry-based learning, along with a consideration of barriers both physical and sociocultural. <i>(English)</i> Creating Important Memories for Tomorrow's Visitors Marie-Christine Bédard , of Musée de la civilisation in Québec City, examines the importance of audience engagement and assessment in building rewarding museum-based experiences for young visitors. <i>(French)</i> Experience Before Learning: Cabanes – Towards a More Open Museography Alisson Boiffard , of Cité des enfants in Paris, discusses new forms of exhibition design, including the impact of visitor-led museography on young audiences. <i>(French)</i>
10:15 a.m.	Questions & Discussion
10:35 a.m.	Refreshment Break & Poster Session Theatre Lobby
10:50 a.m.	Session 4: Big Ideas in Action Designing Playful Museum Spaces and Lessons Learned Along the Way Laurent Carrier , of Toboggan Design in Montréal, discusses his experiences designing exhibitions for children and families, and the incorporation of key concepts such as inclusion. <i>(French)</i> Individualizable Designs: Helping Children Build Tools to Explore their Worlds

	Jason Nolan , of Ryerson University in Toronto, looks at the importance of seeing children as individuals when developing exhibitions and programming for young visitors. <i>(English)</i>
11:40 a.m.	Questions & Discussion
12:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own
	Poster Session Theatre Lobby
1 p.m.	Session 5: Big Ideas in Action
	What Families Are Telling Us Jennifer Elliott , of the Canadian Museum of History, explores key issues from research into audience expectations for a renewed Canadian Children's Museum. <i>(English)</i>
	How Objects Can Be Used to Support Family Learning Susan Foutz , of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, explores objects as learning tools, and the importance of developing displays that spark family discussion and engagement. <i>(English)</i>
2 p.m.	Questions & Discussion
2:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break & Poster Session Theatre Lobby
2:30 p.m.	Session 6: Big Ideas in Action
	Meeting the Needs of Diverse Visitors Kerry McMaster , of the Canadian Museum of History, and occupational therapist Kara Lee , present the Accessibility Model for Experience and Physical Design, developed to guide the Canadian Children's Museum renewal project in its approach to visitor engagement. <i>(English)</i>
	Combining Health and Wellness with Family Programs at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Thomas Bastien , of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts explores the Museum's innovative approach to health and wellness for young visitors and their families. <i>(French)</i>
3:25 p.m.	Questions & Discussion
3:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks
	Mark O'Neill President and CEO Canadian Museum of History
	The Honourable Landon Pearson O.C. Former Canadian Senator and a children's rights advocate

Maureen Ward

Advisor, Childhood Development and Learning
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Note: Symposium speakers and schedule are subject to change without notice.

Session Schedule

All sessions will be in either English or French, with simultaneous interpretation.

Day 1: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

1:10 p.m.

Session 1: Big Ideas

Theatre

Featuring:

Nora Spinks

Families of Today and the Future

Vanier Institute CEO Nora Spinks opens the symposium's first Big Ideas session with "Families of Today and the Future," an engaging and thought-provoking look at the evolution of families and family diversity in Canada. Her presentation will highlight the "stories behind the statistics," exploring how families and family life have changed since the Canadian Children's Museum opened 30 years ago, what the data implies for the future, and why it matters.

Dr. Peter Gray

What Exactly Is Play, and Why Is It Such a Powerful Vehicle for Learning?

In this presentation, Dr. Peter Gray, research professor of psychology at Boston College examines the concept of play, as applied to children's activities and some activities for adults. Dr. Gray will explore play as a self-chosen and self-directed activity motivated by means more than ends, that is also guided by mental rules, includes a strong element of imagination, and is conducted in an alert, active, but relatively relaxed frame of mind.

Describing how each of these characteristics contributes to play's educational and developmental value, he will also explain how play came about, in natural selection, to promote healthy physical, intellectual, social, moral, and emotional growth. The presentation also includes a discussion of the psychological issues that have accompanied the decline of play in recent decades.

2:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break & Poster Session

Theatre Lobby

2:45 p.m.

Session 2: Big Ideas in Action

Theatre

Featuring:

Patrice Aubertin

The Circus Arts and Expanding Play Through Physical Literacy, Creativity and Resilience

This presentation by circus scholar and Director of the Centre for Circus Arts Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Patrice Aubertin focuses on lessons learned through his six years of research into the impact of circus training in elementary schools and other settings. He will discuss the types of circus programs that encourage inclusion for children at various levels of ability, and across genders and cultures.

In addition, the means by which the circus arts contribute to physical literacy, creativity and resilience will be described in relation to “optimal challenge” theory and the cycle of physical literacy. The presentation will also explore the role of the circus arts in relation to the United Nations Convention on a Child’s Right to Play, as well as the concept of “risky play.”

Paul Bowers

What Makes a Playful Exhibition Experience?

This presentation by Paul Bowers explores innovations at the Pauline Gandel Children’s Museum at Melbourne Museum, which opened in 2016. Innovative practices included setting an age range of 0–5, blending neuroscience and consultations with professional educators, and addressing the role of staff and adult caregivers.

Mr. Bowers will look at fundamental principles of play, and lessons derived from contemporary neuroscience. He will discuss the results of consultations and testing among caregivers, maternal health and educational academics and professionals — and the children themselves. In addition, he will describe key decisions made in relation to age range, visitor services staff, and the project’s expansion to the cafe, sanitary facilities and the landscape. He will also offer concrete methods and practices that can be applied to any project, from developing team skills to the productive engagement of outside experts.

Day 2: Thursday, December 5, 2019

9 a.m.

Session 3: Big Ideas in Action

Theatre

Featuring:

Jörg Ehtreiber

Creating Exhibitions for Children of the 21st Century

This presentation features the Graz Children's Museum FRida & freD, and its storytelling approach to inquiry-based and child-led learning. Aimed at two different age groups — 3–7, and 8 and above — FRida & freD's exhibitions incorporate multifaceted themes and topics, with a focus on learning and skills development.

The presentation will also discuss the importance of determining visitors' existing abilities and knowledge, along with how to accommodate diverse needs within a single setting. It will look at addressing barriers. In addition to considering architectural measures, design and accessibility — for example, hands-on exhibits, Braille and wheelchair ramps — it is important to ask what other kinds of barriers may exist. How can these be overcome? How can we please as many people as possible?

Marie-Christine Bédard

Creating Important Memories for Tomorrow's Visitors

When a young child visits a museum, it is often their first encounter with this type of formal cultural resource. At Musée de la civilisation, the development of exhibitions and activities for young audiences is designed to make this first visit a thrilling experience. In this presentation, Marie-Christine Bédard of Musée de la civilisation in Québec City explores how this can be achieved, from knowing our audiences, to asking their opinions and putting ourselves in their place, to taking a clear and decisive approach.



Photo courtesy of Musée de la civilisation.

Ms. Bédard will also discuss the development of **Observer, l'expo qui dérout**e [Observation: More than Meets the Eye] and **Il était une fois...** [Once Upon a Time...]. Both exhibitions adopted an approach rooted in a desire to pique curiosity, while providing highly experiential and interactive spaces that make young visitors feel at home in a museum setting.



Photo courtesy of Musée de la civilisation.

Alisson Boiffard

Experience Before Learning:

Cabanes — Towards a More Open Museography

Complementing permanent spaces at Cité des enfants, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie promotes the concept of “curious kids” through a series of temporary exhibitions tailor-made for new forms of museography. In this presentation, Alisson Boiffard of Cité des enfants in Paris will discuss the first of these exhibitions: **Cabanes** [Cabin Structures], which gave visitors spaces in which their imaginations and creativity could run free. The idea was to give children opportunities to explore a variety of poses and situations in the moment, rather than providing them with information in a top-down fashion.

The incorporation of a wide range of cabin concepts also required exhibition developers to think differently. Ms. Boiffard will also explore the key ideas and guidelines that informed the project, while examining specific methodologies, visitor evaluations, and more.

10:35 a.m.

Refreshment Break & Poster Session
Theatre Lobby

10:50 a.m.

Session 4: Big Ideas in Action

Theatre

Featuring:

Laurent Carrier

Designing Playful Museum Spaces and Lessons Learned Along the Way

When the Canadian Children's Museum was designed more than 30 years ago, there was little discussion of inclusion and family learning. In the past, children were often viewed as a homogenous group of visitors, and caregivers were frequently overlooked. Today, children's museums are expected to welcome and offer *all* visitors engaging and meaningful experiences, while providing far more than a few "learning moments" for little ones.

Although the notion of inclusion is not exclusive to the world of children's museums, the wide range of visitors they host — with multiple physical, cognitive and social abilities — has positioned them as leaders in addressing the needs of diverse audiences. In this presentation, Laurent Carrier of Toboggan Design in Montreal will share his experiences in designing exhibitions for children and families, as well as some lessons learned along the way.



Prototyping with children. Photo courtesy of Toboggan Design.

Jason Nolan

**Individualizable Designs: Helping Children
Build Tools to Explore their Worlds**

When museum spaces are developed for children, children's interests and needs must come first. In this presentation, Jason Nolan of Ryerson University in Toronto will explore user-initiated and radically individualized design, which starts with an understanding of the needs specific to individual children, rather than children in general.

Children have a greater interest in active physical and sensory learning than adults, perceiving their surroundings with their whole bodies. To create inclusive museum spaces for children, designers must give them tools to modify exhibition spaces to suit their specific interests and needs.

He will also discuss tools and objects that can help children to better engage with the world around them. From customizable chairs, to low-cost communication devices offering local dialects, to tools that help children explore learning with sound, his work attempts to situate children as the creators and designers of their own learning spaces, and adults as producers of the tools kids need.



Photo courtesy of Jason Nolan.

12 p.m.

**Lunch on Your Own
Poster Session**
Theatre Lobby

1 p.m.

Session 5: Big Ideas in Action

Theatre

Featuring:

Jennifer Elliott

What Families Are Telling Us

In October 2018, the Canadian Museum of History announced the renewal of the Canadian Children's Museum, and asked the general public to help reimagine the space. The Museum has since engaged with young visitors, families, and educational groups to explore what they value about the Children's Museum, and how it could be improved.

In this presentation, Jennifer Elliott shares some key lessons derived from visitors research. She will explore topics that include the importance visitors place on the educational value of children's museums, and the qualities essential to a successful visit. In addition, she will examine the public expectation that children's museums should appeal to changing interests, while still managing to engage children of all ages, as well as their accompanying adults. She will also discuss the need for children's museums to become more inclusive and accessible in order to better respond to the needs of families and educational groups.

Susan Foutz

How Objects Can Be Used to Support Family Learning

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis (TCM) was founded in 1925 by Mary Stewart Carey, following a visit to the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Like the museum that inspired it, TCM was founded as a collecting institution, and now maintains a collection of more than 120,000 objects. As a collecting institution focused on family learning, TCM has a long history of displaying objects to engage adults and children alike.

Drawing upon recent exhibitions such as **National Geographic Sacred Journeys**, **World of Sport**, and **Treasures of Ancient Greece**, Ms. Foutz will highlight the planning processes, display techniques, and evaluation findings that support and measure the family learning sparked by displays of objects. A framework used for object selection — the Family Learning Object Rating Evaluation System (FLORES) — will also be discussed as an exhibition development tool encouraging families to notice and talk about collection objects.



Photo courtesy of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

2:15 p.m. **Refreshment Break & Poster Session**
Theatre Lobby

2:30 p.m. **Session 6: Big Ideas in Action**
Theatre

Featuring:

Kerry McMaster and Kara Lee
Meeting the Needs of Diverse Visitors

Developing an accessible museum space can be intimidating, as accessibility concerns grow in scope. Beyond a traditional focus on physical disabilities and a narrow range of sensory impairments, today's museums must also address cognitive, sensory and perceptual challenges, based on practical clinical experience and research evidence.

Diverse opinions and ever-changing theories and definitions can confuse a museum's goals. In this presentation, Kerry McMaster of the Canadian Museum of History, and occupational therapist Kara Lee explore the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project's Accessibility Model for Experience and Physical Design. Created to promote understanding and consensus across the entire project team, the model provides clear guidance from concept to execution.

The model promotes "inclusive play" and the idea that, by diversifying means of access and improving accessibility through inclusion, flexibility and innovation, museums can provide better experiences for naturally diverse general audiences, as well those with specific disabilities.

Thomas Bastien
**Combining Health and Wellness with Family Programs
at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts**

Over the past eight years, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) has seen a tenfold increase among participants in family activities, to more than 80,000 a year. Within a 3,500 square meters space dedicated to learning and play — including 12 studios and numerous spaces for educational exhibitions — the MMFA continues to expand its offerings to meet the needs of as many young visitors as possible.

In this presentation, Thomas Bastien, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, will explore how the MMFA expanded accessibility, while also enhancing its family offerings with a health and wellness program. Part of this program included the hiring of a full-time art therapist and the creation of a dedicated space for art therapy, launching an innovative new museological approach to learning for young visitors and their families.

3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Theatre

Mark O'Neill

President and CEO

Canadian Museum of History

The Honourable Landon Pearson O.C.

Former Canadian Senator and a children's rights advocate

Maureen Ward

Advisor, Childhood Development and Learning

Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project

Canadian Museum of History

Keynote Speakers



Nora Spinks

CEO, Vanier Institute of the Family

Through her work with individuals and organizations, thought leader Nora Spinks enhances understanding of families across Canada and around the world. A sought-after commentator on television and radio, Nora has dedicated her career to the creation of innovative policies and programs focusing on health and well-being, workplace flexibility and work-life balance.

Recognized internationally for her work, she has contributed to the success of many community and workplace programs across sectors, and is the recipient of numerous awards. Nora is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project, advising on the diversity of contemporary Canadian families.



Dr. Peter Gray

Research Professor, Department of Psychology, Boston College

Dr. Gray is a leading international expert on the role of play in human evolution. A sought-after public commentator, Dr. Gray's research highlights the value of self-directed play and reveals children's natural ways of learning. He is the author of the popular university textbook, *Psychology*, now in its eighth edition, and of *Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life*.

Dr. Gray also writes a popular blog for *Psychology Today*, and is a founder and board member of Let Grow, an initiative dedicated to encouraging freedom to play outdoors without constant adult supervision.



Paul Bowers

Former Head of Exhibitions, Museums Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Paul Bowers steered the renewal of the award-winning Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery at Melbourne Museum and helped develop designs for the multifaceted physical and technological transformation of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image for 21st-century audiences.

An established museum professional, his previous work includes heading up exhibitions and design, renewals, project management, and program development at major museums in both Australia and the United Kingdom. Among other projects, Paul has previously worked on expanding Melbourne Museum's family offer, and developing new experiences for teenagers at Scienceworks.

Speakers



Patrice Aubertin

Director, Centre for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in Circus Arts, National Circus School, Montréal

As Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Industrial Research Chair for Colleges in Circus Arts, Patrice Aubertin directs the Centre for Circus Arts Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, which is affiliated with the National Circus School (NCS) in Montréal. Current projects explore the physical, psychosocial and creative impact of circus arts on both young people and professionals.

Before joining NCS, he worked with Cirque du Soleil for ten years as an acrobatic trainer and designer, senior coordinator of artist training, and director of research and development for new creative projects. His previous experience also includes work in the fields of sports, the visual arts and music.



Jörg Ehtreiber

Director, FRida & freD, Kindermuseum, Graz, Austria and President of Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums, Europe

Since 2003, Jörg Ehtreiber has been Managing Director and Artistic Director of the award-winning Graz children's museum FRida & freD. Conceived as a welcoming space for children of all ages, FRida & freD encourages young visitors to explore the world's diversity — and their own imaginations — while giving them the tools to become confident and responsible citizens.

Since 2014, Mr. Ehtreiber has also been Director of the Graz Fairytale Train and is currently President of Hands On! Association of Children in Museums. In 2016, Jörg and his colleague Wolfgang Muchitsch from Universalmuseum Joanneum developed the idea for a joint science centre. CoSA — Center of Science Activities opened in Graz on October 19, 2019.



Marie-Christine Bédard

Chargée de projet d'exposition, Musée de la civilisation, Québec City

Marie-Christine Bédard has worked at Musée de la civilisation for 20 years, first as a specialist in educational mediation and, for the past five years, as an exhibition project manager. Most recently, she has contributed to the production of several highly popular exhibitions for young audiences. **Observer : l'expo qui déroute** [Observation: More than Meets the Eye], for example, challenged visitors of all ages to second-guess their visual and physical perceptions within a series of cleverly disorienting environments.

The similarly innovative exhibition **Il était une fois ...** [Once Upon a Time ...] used engaging scenography to present new takes on classic fairy tales. Mindful of developing projects that reflect audience needs and expectations, she often incorporates consultation and evaluation in her approach.



Alisson Boiffard

Muséographe, Cité des enfants, Universcience, Paris

Alisson Boiffard has been a museographer with Universcience in Paris, France, for the past 15 years, and worked on the renewal of two spaces at the Cité des enfants for ages 2–7 and 5–12. These two permanent exhibitions explore fundamental ideas via themes such as “I Can Do It” and “Let’s Work Together.” Visitors can experiment with and handle exhibition elements, thus engaging their five senses, enhancing fine motor skills and solving simple problems.

She is also the curator of **Cabanes** [Cabin Structures]: a popular temporary exhibition which gives children opportunities to explore on their own, enhancing both creativity and imagination as they enter, alter and build various structures, alone or with others.



Laurent Carrier

Experience and Exhibition Designer,
Co-Founder of Toboggan Design, Montreal

For more than 25 years, Laurent worked internationally both heading and consulting on museum exhibition projects of a historical, cultural and scientific nature, including many projects for children and family audiences. Laurent’s hands-on experience has given him a global understanding of the overall scope of exhibition development, and the implications of decision-making every step of the way.

A solid leader and strategic thinker, he is able to organize a wealth of creative possibilities into concrete, engaging and meaningful experiences for visitors of all ages. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute of Imagination, an all-ages creative space in London, England. Laurent and his colleagues at Toboggan Design are currently developing plans for the Canadian Children’s Museum Renewal Project.



Jason Nolan

Associate Professor, Early Childhood Studies and Director of the
Responsive Ecologies Lab (RE/Lab), Ryerson University, Toronto

Jason Nolan is autistic and, through this lens, focuses his research on designing tools and technologies to support children’s learning in informal settings — from AR/VR and social media, to supports for disabled children. Current projects include technologies and tools to support learning among young children about, and with, sound as a sensory modality that is often absent from their education.

He is also working on the development of a low-cost augmented and alternative communication device, based on research with Indigenous communities in Bolivia. As a goal, the project strives to provide multilingual communication tools to disabled individuals around the world.



Jennifer Elliott

Director of Public Research and Evaluation, Canadian Museum of History

Jennifer Elliott has more than 20 years' museum experience, and is responsible for visitor research and evaluation at the Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum. Recently, she has overseen visitor research for the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal project, including interviews with children and surveys of parents/caregivers and leaders of educational groups.

Jennifer serves as the Museum's representative within the Children's Museum Research Network — an initiative led by the Association of Children's Museums and the University of Washington — and is active within the Visitor Studies Association. Jennifer has a master's degree in Museum Studies from University College London, University of London, England.



Susan Foutz

Director of Research and Evaluation, Children's Museum of Indianapolis

Susan Foutz is Director of Research and Evaluation at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. She is responsible for the overall assessment of family learning at the museum. In this capacity, she works with staff teams to outline goals, objectives and outcomes relative to evaluating the success of new experiences and reports on the effectiveness of the museum's family learning efforts.

In addition, she serves as the Children's Museum's representative within the Children's Museum Research Network — an initiative led by the Association of Children's Museums and the University of Washington — and is a member of the American Evaluation Association and the Visitor Studies Association.



Kerry McMaster

Scenographer, Canadian Museum of History

Kerry McMaster is a scenographer at the Canadian Museum of History. Over the years, she has designed a variety of exhibitions for people of all ages, including **Wind Work, Wind Play: Weathervanes and Whirligigs**, the interior gallery for the Northwest Coast houses in the Museum's Grand Hall, and **Death in the Ice: The Mystery of the Franklin Expedition**. Most recently, she has been working with the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal team to establish design guidelines for the renewal project, including guidelines related to accessibility.

Kerry graduated from Carleton University with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design, and a minor in Psychology. While completing school, she also directed summer programming for children, youth and families.



Kara Lee

Occupational Therapist

Kara Lee is a Registered Occupational Therapist, who has worked in pediatrics for more than a decade. She graduated with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from McMaster University, and has worked in both the public and private sectors, gaining extensive experience with children who have various diagnoses, abilities, and developmental and learning challenges. Her career has provided opportunities to serve families from many different demographics, including urban, rural, and remote northern communities.

Kara is an Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct) with the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project, advising about special needs and accessibility to help foster an inclusive environment for all visitors.



Thomas Bastien

Director of Education and Wellness, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

Thomas Bastien has an engineering degree from the École Supérieure d'Agriculture d'Angers (France), and a master's degree in Genetics from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Following four years with a Public Relation company, in 2012 he joined the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA), during the first expansion of its educational and social and community areas.

He has also worked as Press Officer and as Assistant Director of Partnerships for the MMFA Foundation. Since 2017, he has served as the MMFA's Director of Education and Wellness, with a team of 50 employees and the support of 170 docents, welcoming more than 300,000 annual participants to various activities.



The Honourable Landon Pearson, O.C.

Former Canadian Senator and a children's rights advocate

Landon Pearson is the leader of the Landon Pearson Centre for the Study of Children and Children's Rights and an Officer of the Order of Canada. From 1994 to 2005, Landon Pearson served in The Senate of Canada, where she became known as the Children's Senator.

In 1996, she was named the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Advisor on Children's Rights, and in 1998 she became the Personal Representative of the Prime Minister to the 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children. She writes about and lectures on children's rights.

In 2005, she was among 1,000 women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work. Married to a Canadian diplomat, Pearson raised five children in five countries, while learning first-hand about the challenges confronting the world's children.

Session Moderators

Chantal Amyot

Senior Director, Exhibitions and Visitor Experience
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Laurent Carrier

Experience and Exhibition Designer
Co-Founder of Toboggan Design

Rebecca Friend

Research Assistant
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Catherine O'Sullivan

Advisor, Strategic Initiatives
Canadian Museum of History

Eric Pellerin

Head, Scenography and Media Production
Canadian Museum of History

Dr. James Trepanier

Curator, Post-Confederation Canada
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Meghan Schreiner

Learning Specialist
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Maureen Ward

Advisor, Childhood Development and Learning
Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project
Canadian Museum of History

Poster Presentations

Theatre Lobby, Canadian Museum of History

Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5, 2019

Accessibility and Inclusivity Within the Built Environment of Museums: A Scoping Review

Britney Karnupis, Cara King, Kaitlin Cowper, and Rachel Weekes, MSc(OT), McMaster University

Artifacts and Authenticity: Thinking Through Museum Exhibitions for Children

Rebecca Friend, MA Public History, Carleton University

A Visual Experience: Using Photovoice to Better

Understand Children's Interactions in Museums

Emilie Hill-Smith, MA Anthropology, Carleton University

Children's Museology: Towards a Different Collaboration Dynamic

Gracia Tenorio Pearl, MA Art History and Dr. Monica Patterson, Carleton University

Closing the Missing Link: Climate Change Awareness Campaign

and Children's Photographic Production for Museum Exhibition

Akintunde Akinleye, PhD Anthropology, Carleton University

Curating Picture Books at the Chihiro Iwasaki Museums

Maggie Bryan, MA Art History, Carleton University

Integrating Children's Definitions of Play into Museum Spaces and Exhibits

Dayna Goldfarb, BA Child Studies, Carleton University

Acknowledgements

The symposium's organizing team is grateful for the support of the Cultural Services of the **Embassy of France in Canada** and the **Embassy of Austria in Ottawa** for helping make this symposium possible.

Thank you to our promotion partners **Ontario Museum Association** and the **Société des Musées du Québec**.

We sincerely thank the many individuals who generously shared their time, expertise and thoughtful advice to shape this event effectively.

Notes

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]