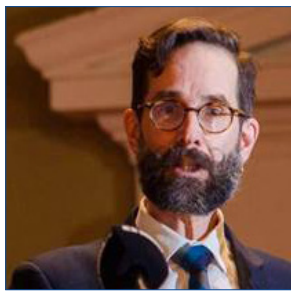


# Ontario Museum Association

2021 - 2022  
Annual Report





OMA Council from left to right.

## OMA Council 2021-2022

### **Cathy Molloy, President**

Director  
Markham Museum

### **Paul Robertson, Past President**

City Curator, Cultural Services  
City of Kingston

### **Cheryl Blackman, Vice-President**

Director, Museums and Heritage Services, City of Toronto

### **Sonia Mrva, Treasurer**

Manager, Museums  
City of Toronto

### **Michael Rikley-Lancaster, Secretary**

Executive Director/Curator  
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

### **Joe Corrigan, Councillor**

Volunteer and former Museum Manager  
Lang Pioneer Village Museum

### **Kathy Fisher, Councillor**

Curator  
Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site

### **Cara Krmpotich, Councillor**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Information  
University of Toronto

### **Heather Montgomery, Councillor**

Museum Education and Evaluation Specialist  
Bank of Canada Museum

### **Janis Monture, Councillor**

Executive Director  
Woodland Cultural Centre

### **Jonathan Paquette, Councillor**

President, Muséoparc Vanier

### **Sascha Prieve, Councillor**

Director of Collections & Public Programs  
Aga Khan Museum

## Thank You to Past Council Members

### **Petal Furness, Past President**

### **Alexander Gates, Councillor**

Executive Director and Curator, Canadian Automotive Museum

### **Sean Stoughton, Councillor**

Village Coordinator, Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum

# Remembering Paul Robertson

The OMA acknowledges the passing of OMA Past President



Paul made substantial contributions to the Ontario museum community for more than 30 years, working in museums and heritage since the 80s at the Official Residences of the National Capital Commission, the House of Commons, the Canadian Museum of History (Civilization), the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, and as Kingston's first City Curator, a post he held for more than a decade.

Paul was truly committed to the values and goals of the OMA, and he brought a wide breadth of knowledge and experience to strengthen the Association. As an active member of the OMA, Paul served on OMA Council and committees, including the Nominations Committee, Looking Ahead Task Force, Conference Committee, Modernizing Community Museum Funding Working Group, and in various Executive Positions including as OMA President from 2019-2021.

He led by example, building a culture of respect and inclusion and taking an active role in supporting emerging professionals, including through Conference Connections mentorship and the Inclusive Museum Leadership Symposium. In recent years, he took on a greater role in OMA's advocacy, meeting with Ministers, governments, and funders to express the challenges and contributions of museums.

Paul remained dedicated to fostering connections in our community. His inclusive approach to leadership helped build consensus and camaraderie on OMA Council and he eagerly mentored and welcomed new members. The Ontario museum community has lost a passionate advocate, tireless leader, and a true friend.

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# To Our Members

As the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, the Ontario Museum Association listened to members' concerns to lead the museum sector's response with an informed and unified voice. The OMA consistently advocated for emergency funding, investment in digital initiatives, and a renewed funding model for museum operations - brought forward in budget submissions and correspondence with Ministers.

Together with provincial heritage networks and members, the OMA successfully advocated for investments for pandemic recovery. The OMA recognized and appreciated the additional \$2 million 2021 Digital Capacity grants provided to the recipients of the Community Operating Grant program by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries in support of their digital pivot.

The OMA was also engaged with Regional Museum Networks (RMNs) in representations to Ontario government—Ministers and local MPPs—in a request for an increase to museums operating budgets towards 15% of their annual budgets for an increase in operating funding of \$10 million. This recommended investment to renew the CMOG program would reach 300 community museums and increase the number of Ontarians reached in cities and towns across the province.

At the federal level, the network of National, Provincial and Territorial museums associations (NPTMAs) advocated for Canadian Heritage to continue pandemic reopening and recovery funding support and a streamlined application process, in addition to the newly launched Digital Access to Heritage program. The OMA also worked in collaboration with NPTMAs to continue advocating for a new National Museum Policy.

In addition to advocacy initiatives, the OMA provided relevant and timely resources for our members, such as The Digital Strategy Checklist Tool and several webinars addressing museum work during the pandemic.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all members who engaged in discussions and provided feedback, participating in focus groups and surveys which were essential in guiding the work of the Association during the past year. With this feedback, the OMA undertook a review of the Certificate in Museum Studies (CMS) program, created the Professional Development Advisory Committee and a new Ontario Museum Digital Advisory Committee.

For a second year, the sector gathered virtually for the OMA Annual Conference 2021, an important time to reconnect with colleagues on the theme of "Reopening, Recovery, Reimagination." Sessions focused on member participation and discussions on the following ideas: the essential components and impact of a renewed funding model with increased funding for museum operations; the digital transformation of museums, and how to support a diverse workforce.

This year, OMA Executive Director, Marie Lalonde, was invited to participate in the international ICOM Museum Definition committee tasked with delivering a new museum definition for the global museum community that aims to reflect contemporary practice and interest while also becoming a central reference for all our work.

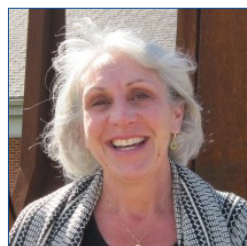
With sadness, we also want to acknowledge the passing of OMA Past President, Paul Robertson, a beloved and generous museum colleague who for more than 30 years made a remarkable contribution to the Association and to the entire Ontario museum community. We have lost a passionate advocate, tireless leader, and a true friend.

The OMA will continue to work with members as the sector moves forward into recovery. A strong and vibrant museum sector is essential to reconnecting and rebuilding Ontario, and we have been continually inspired by the perseverance and resourcefulness of our members. We thank you for your continued engagement and support!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie G. Lalonde".

**Marie G. Lalonde**  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Molloy".

**Cathy Molloy**  
President

# COVID-19 Response, Reopening & Recovery



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/resources/tools-for-museum-practice/COVID19>

As the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, the OMA remained committed to providing information to support Ontario's museums and museum workers to respond to a changing landscape and participate in the province's reopening and recovery.

## OMA COVID-19 Webinars and Online Resources

Webinars on various aspects of museum work during COVID-19 were offered at no charge to members to ensure full access. A dedicated COVID-19 Resources page on the OMA website collected information and resources about the pandemic and its impacts for Ontario museums and is continually updated with new information and resources.



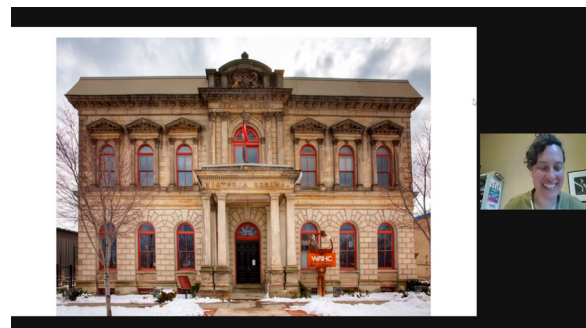
Public Services Health and Safety Association Health and Safety Consultants Rob Oliver and Janice Gallant presented a webinar about how to reopen museums safely in their roles as both workplaces and public attractions.

## Member Check-Ins

OMA members were invited to participate in a #MuseumsConnectON Member Check-in meeting and discuss the role of museums in addressing urgent social issues. This session, facilitated by Florencia Berinstein from Workers Arts & Heritage Centre (WAHC) and Nadine Villasin Feldman from Myseum of Toronto, encouraged participants to share the challenges and barriers to doing this work, as well as strategies for engaging communities around difficult conversations.

## eNews Alerts

As information became available and public health guidelines shifted, the OMA kept members up-to-date with eNews Alerts covering sector news, urgent updates, policy changes, notice and follow-up of technical briefings with Minister MacLeod, and new funding opportunities.



#MuseumsConnectON Member Check-in meeting with Florencia Berinstein and Nadine Villasin Feldman.

## Correspondence with Government

The OMA remained in continual contact with the government of Ontario and the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI), advocating for museum sector priorities and collecting essential information to report back to members.

## Supporting Our Members

The OMA offered many membership services free of charge, including webinars, Member Check-Ins, sector-specific COVID-19 and funding resources on the OMA website, and the weekly delivery of ONmuseums and eNews Alerts to members regardless of their renewal status.

# OMA Advocacy

The OMA provides leadership on key and developing areas of importance to museums. We work with all levels of government, funders, cultural leaders and the general public to strengthen awareness of shared values and support for museums. Together with Ontario's Regional Museum Networks (RMNs) and the National, Provincial and Territorial Museums Associations (NPTMAs), the OMA will continue to champion a renewal of Ontario's museum funding model for all museums serving communities across the province.

# Provincial Advocacy

<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy>

## Invest Fully Campaign

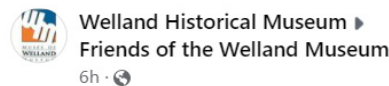
In June 2021, The OMA asked members to share an open letter addressed to Minister MacLeod and Premier Ford with their MPPs, community members, and media. The letter called on the provincial government to invest fully in Ontario museums through the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) program so they can survive the pandemic and contribute to the province's recovery and vitality.

## Reopening Regulations Letter

In June 2021, The OMA sent a letter to Minister MacLeod, sharing member concerns and the OMA's recommendations to allow the operation of outdoor guided tours by museums and historic sites in Step 1 of the Roadmap to Reopen, and indoor museums to open in Step 2.

## Capital stream of the Community Building Fund

In August 2021, in a letter to the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the OMA expressed the need for museums be included and eligible for the Capital stream of the Community Building Fund, administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



February 21-27 is #HeritageWeek! Join us in celebrating Ontario's museums and their community contributions. #MuseumsConnectON Ontario museums for community recovery.



4

1 Share



skanahdoht • Follow

skanahdoht Ontario museums employ 11,000 people across hundreds of communities, helping to make Ontario a vibrant place to live! #MuseumsConnectON #Employment #HeritageWeek

@LTVCA @visitmiddlesex #SkaNahDoht #TheVillageStandsAgain #Longwoods #LongwoodsRoadConservationArea #LowerThamesRiver #AntlerRiver #ThamesRiver #heritage #HistoryMuseum #Museumstagram #RuralOntario #RuralTourism #InvestInMiddlesex #VisitMiddlesex

1h



1 HOUR AGO

Add a comment...

Post

# Provincial Advocacy

[https://members.museumsontario.ca/sites/default/files/Ontario-Museum-Association\\_Provincial-Budget-Submission\\_2022.pdf](https://members.museumsontario.ca/sites/default/files/Ontario-Museum-Association_Provincial-Budget-Submission_2022.pdf)

## Submission to Ontario's 2022 Budget

The OMA made three recommendations for targeted provincial support, so that museums can recover and strengthen their service to communities across Ontario:

1. An Ontario Museum Relief Fund, valued at \$10 Million, in immediate response to the impacts of COVID-19—to support museums' survival during periods of closures
2. A Digital Response Fund, valued at \$10 Million over three years
3. Increased support for community museums by \$10 Million per year to reach 300 communities across the province—towards stabilizing operations and local recovery

OMA Executive Director, Marie Lalonde, presented these recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, and members bolstered the submission by sending letters to local MPPs. In collaboration with the OMA, Regional Museum Networks sent a letter to the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, and the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, advocating for recommendation 3, for increased provincial support through a targeted investment of \$10 million.

## Digital Capacity Grant Report Back

Following the \$2M Digital Capacity Grants provided in March 2021 to recipients of the Community Museum Operating Grant program (CMOG), OMA worked with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to receive data from specific questions asked about the Digital Capacity Grant as part of the June 2021 CMOG application.



## Museum Networks

<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy/regional-museum-networks>

The OMA's connections and collaborations with other organizations and stakeholders have been essential to our work over the past year. Ontario's Regional Museum Networks (RMNs), the Group of Emerging Museum Professionals (GOEMP), our fellow Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHOs), Provincial Arts Services Organizations (PASOs), the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) and Canada's National, Provincial, and Territorial Museums Associations (NPTMAs) have all played a role in the successful initiatives and programs that have helped museums and our organizations survive the pandemic and build greater impact when our members have needed us the most. We look forward to strengthening our relationships with our sector allies.

# National Advocacy



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy>

## Budget Submission

As part of the consultation process for Canada's Federal Budget 2022, the OMA submitted six recommendations echoing calls made by the Canadian Museums Association (CMA). The Recommendations provide key action areas for the Government to rebuild connection to our country's museums and assist them in survival and recovery during the pivotal time of a global pandemic. The OMA presented these recommendations to MP Julie Dzerowicz (Member, Standing Committee on Finance; Davenport; Liberal)

## Elections 2021 Open Letter

The OMA and 10 other provincial and territorial museums associations, representing over 2,000 museum and heritage institutions, partnered with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) to call on federal political parties to commit to updating Canada's 30-year-old national museum policy. The letter urged representatives to commit to work with museums to develop policies adapted to the unique place and role of museums in modern Canadian society.

## Stakeholder Meeting with Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez

OMA Executive Director, Marie Lalonde, was invited to partake in a stakeholder meeting with the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage. Participants discussed the impacts of the pandemic, what a successful recovery looks like, and the sustainable growth of these sectors. The OMA will continue working with national and provincial colleagues to advocate for a new national museum policy and operating support to stabilize museum and heritage organizations.

In 2022, in Ottawa, the OMA joined fellow National, Provincial and Territorial Museums Associations (NPTMAs) colleagues, the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), other organizations and representatives of the arts, culture and heritage sector for the National Culture Summit, "The Future of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage in Canada." The OMA was invited by the Department of Canadian Heritage to amplify the needs and potential of our members at the national level.



Julie Dzerowicz @JulieDzerowicz · Feb 10

Today I took part in a great discussion with art groups on their pre-budget recommendations. I will never get tired of reminding Canadians and #DavenportTO how important the arts community is and fighting for the creative sector.



4 1 1



Minister of Canadian Heritage, The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez (left); ED/CEO of the Alberta Museums Association Jennifer Forsyth (second row), OMA ED Marie Lalonde (centre) and the British Columbia Museums Association Vice-President Lynn Saffery (right)



# Municipal Advocacy



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy/municipal-elections>

The OMA continued to share resources and techniques to assist Ontario museums in communicating their impacts and effectivity advocate to municipal governments. “Museums and Your Municipality” is a handout that provides information on the benefits and possibilities of museums and their communities.

## May is Museum Month/Mai, Mois des Musées



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy/mmm-imd>

With the pivot to online programming and various mandated museum closures, *May is Museum Month/Mai, Mois des Musées* was predominantly celebrated through a variety of digital initiatives. The OMA's public communications focused on encouraging Ontarians to engage in online programming offered by local museums, galleries, and heritage sites throughout May 2021.

The OMA published themed museum lists on the OMA website, authored social media content, and created a social media kit and proclamation letter template. The downloadable kit helped Ontario museums promote their events through social media and other communications. The shared letter prompted 6 communities across Ontario to proclaim *May is Museum Month* in 2021.

The OMA also collaborated with the Culinary Tourism Alliance and The Globe and Mail to develop the *Great Taste of Ontario: Museum Edition* special section published in May 2021. The four museum-focused articles in the section were:

- Technology takes a permanent place in museum strategy
- Digging into Ontario's food heritage
- The changing role of museums
- First-hand museum experiences irreplicable



# Strengthening Our Bonds, Sharing Our Practices

The OMA works in collaboration with the Ontario museum community to create a culture that fosters critical self-reflection in its efforts to make substantive changes for a more diverse and inclusive sector.

The OMA is committed to make every effort to promote the participation of members of equity-seeking groups including members of Black, racialized, and diverse Indigenous communities, women, persons with disabilities, neurodiverse individuals, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, emerging museum professionals, and others who may contribute their perspectives and lived experience for the further diversification of the Association.



#MuseumsConnectON Member Check-in meeting to discuss the role of museums in addressing urgent social issues. This session, facilitated by Florencia Berinstein from Workers Arts & Heritage Centre (WAHC) and Nadine Villasin Feldman from Museum of Toronto.

## Indigenous Collections Symposium 2021

 <https://members.museumsonario.ca/programs-events/current-initiatives/indigenous-collections-symposium-2021>

As we continue our reconciliation efforts as a museum community, the OMA looks forward to fostering the ongoing learning and collaboration that will result in meaningful change. The OMA strives to ensure that the Ontario museum community is an inclusive space where those of us who are settlers in settler institutions do the work of decolonization and support Indigenous self-determination and cultural renewal.

Over the years, Indigenous museum professionals and organizations have generously shared their work with Ontario's museum sector. Museums can learn from the teachings and example of Indigenous Elders, colleagues and organizations by accessing our resources for Indigenous Culture and Reconciliation.

In 2021, 250 Indigenous and non-Indigenous museum professionals gathered online for the second Indigenous Collections Symposium: *Mashkawatgong-mamawewiziwin – strengthening our bonds, sharing our practices*. Participants shared reflections on how they will take the Symposium's teachings into the future:

### Participant reflections on how they will take the Symposium's teachings into the Future



Reaching out to, communicating better with, and being guided by communities



Recognizing the importance of language, reciprocity, and traditional care



Making the time to listen, learn, understand



Thinking about large decolonization frameworks; and taking small steps every day



Advocating for and obtaining resources to fund important work



Sharing what I learnt with my colleagues and in my institution

# Strengthening Our Bonds, Sharing Our Practices

## Session Recordings - Indigenous Collections Symposium 2021

 [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw\\_7vNW4ee40BnZHkf0ymferZf5aw8yp](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw_7vNW4ee40BnZHkf0ymferZf5aw8yp)

### Barriers to Access

Speakers: Jennelle Doyle, Library and Archives Canada; Krista Ulujuk Zawadski, Government of Nunavut

### Community Based Collections

Speakers: Sylvia Morin, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Cultural Education Centre; Naomi Recollet, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

### Narrative Research and Implementing Traditional Care Practices

Speaker: Emily Burton, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21; John Moses, Canadian Conservation Institute

### Accessing Museum Collections as an Indigenous Person

Speakers: Melissa Phillips, Museum Windsor; Laura Peers, Canadian Canoe Museum; Mik Migwans, University of Toronto; Renee Dillard, Enji-Naabiigigeying Studio, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa

### Access, Engagement and Knowledge: Community Collaborations with the Canadian Museum of History

Speaker: Jameson C. Brant, Talena Atfield, Caroline Marchand, Michele Gervais, Canadian Museum of History; Sylvia Morin, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Cultural Education Centre; Taylor Gibson, Library and Archives Canada

### Keynote Address: Ang.nga hll kuuyada: It is precious to me

Speakers: Jisgang Nika Collison, S<sub>G</sub>aan Kwahagang James McGuire, Aay Aay Albert Hans, and Gid yahk'ii Sean Young, Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Llnagaay



Keynote address speakers (top to bottom): Jisgang Nika Collison, S<sub>G</sub>aan Kwahagang James McGuire, Aay Aay Albert Hans and Gid yahk'ii Sean Young



ICS sessions (from left to right): Renee Dillard in “Accessing Museum Collections as an Indigenous Person”, Heather George in “Access, Engagement & Knowledge: Community Collaborations with the Canadian Museum of History”, and Jenelle Doyle in “Barriers to Access”

## Partners



# OMA Annual Conference 2021



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/conference/2021>

## Reopening, Recovery, Reimagination

Ontario's museum community once again gathered virtually for the OMA's Annual Conference, and it was a full day of reconnection and rejuvenation!

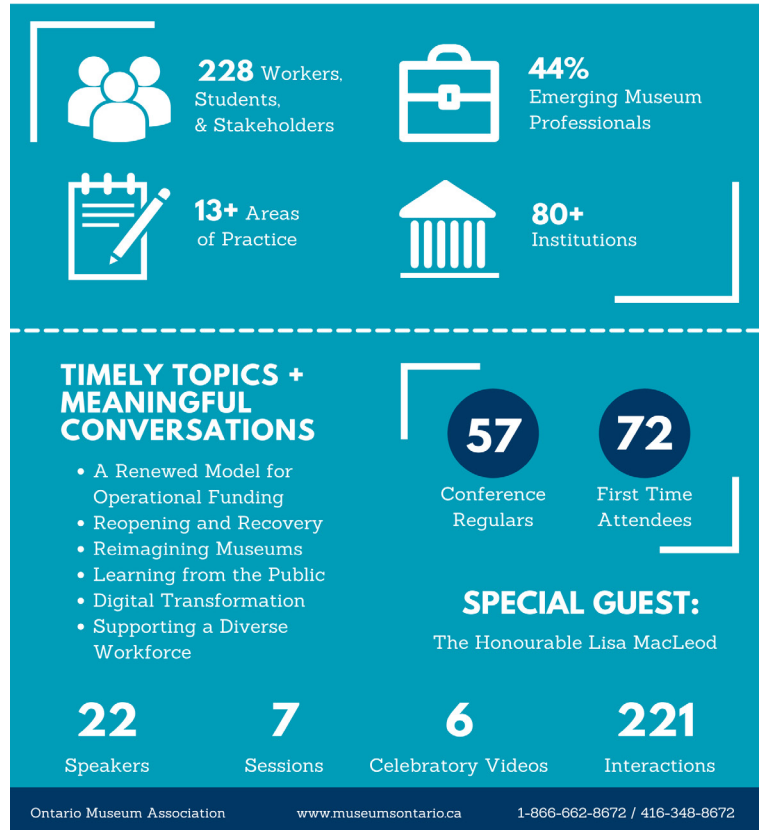
Mindful of the financial constraints brought on by the pandemic, the Association was pleased to offer a fully subsidized registration option for members, to maximize accessibility for the virtual format.

Throughout the conference, delegates embraced the opportunity to reimagine their practices and the path to recovery. The program sessions were a reflection of the current state of the sector and its future, such as reopening amidst a pandemic, rethinking and reimagining core missions and values, and learning from the public and communities we serve.

Four "Talking Change, Taking Charge" discussions provided delegates with the opportunity to brainstorm and converse with one another in breakout sessions, with a focus on pandemic recommendations to government. Particularly, discussions centred on a renewed funding model for museum operations, the digital transformation and investment of museums, and supporting a diverse workforce.

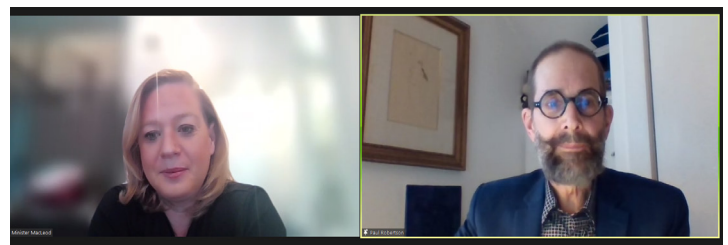


## OMA CONFERENCE 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:



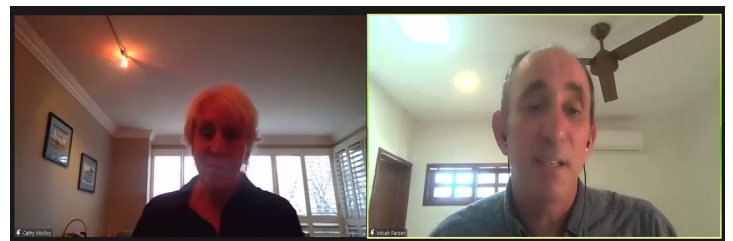
## Minister MacLeod at #OMAConf2021

We were pleased to welcome The Honourable Lisa McLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries to the second virtual OMA Annual Conference. Minister MacLeod addressed OMA delegates regarding the effects of the pandemic and the importance of Ontario's heritage organizations, and answered important questions about the future of Ontario's museums.



## Keynote

This year we welcomed keynote speaker Micah Parzen! As CEO of the Museum of Us, San Diego, formerly known as the San Diego Museum of Man, Micah Parzen showed us how a museum can reimagine its traditional identity and move towards inclusivity; towards a museum that is representative of all the communities it serves. From changing names to changing practices, Micah Parzen presented a story of reimagination.



# OMA Annual Conference 2021



[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw\\_7vNW4ee4M0j7fHXGylw2TTjtHjebPI](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw_7vNW4ee4M0j7fHXGylw2TTjtHjebPI)

## Sessions

### **Talking Change, Taking Charge: Déjà Brew – Connections, Conversation, and Coffee**

Presented by: Sean Campbell and Heather Montgomery

### **Talking Change, Taking Charge: Ontario Museum Operational Funding: Where are we going?**

Presented by: Michael Rikley-Lancaster and Paul Robertson

### **Talking Change, Taking Charge: Museum of the Future: Digital Transformation**

Presented by: Karen Sinotte and Christina Sydorko

### **Talking Change, Taking Charge: Supporting a Diverse Workforce**

Presented by: Angela Cassie, Michael Rikley-Lancaster, Madeline Smolarz, and Jingshu Helen Yao

### **Perspectives on Reopening, Recovery, and Reimagination**

Presented by Cheryl Blackman, Scott Beck, Beth Hanna, and Umbereen Inayet

### **Museum of Us: Reimagining the Museum**

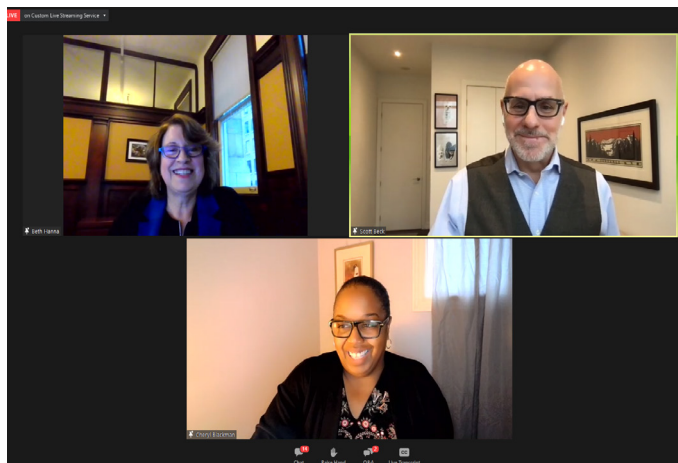
Presented by Micah Parzen, and Cathy Molloy

### **Learning from the Public: Articulating the Value of Museums to our Communities**

Presented by Jennifer Forsyth, Caroline Loewen, and Victoria Dickenson

### **Learning from the Public: Reimagine Our Museums**

Presented by Sonja Macdonald, Paul Shaker, and Sonia Mrva



Beth Hanna, Scott Beck, and Cheryl Blackman

## Speakers

**Scott Beck**, President & CEO, Destination Toronto

**Cheryl Blackman**, Director, Museums and Heritage Services, City of Toronto

**Sean Campbell**, Visitor Experience Manager, Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum

**Angela Cassie**, Vice-President, Strategic Transformation and Inclusion, National Gallery of Canada

**Victoria Dickenson**, Professor of Practice, Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill Library

**Jennifer Forsyth**, Executive Director & CEO, Alberta Museums Association

**Beth Hanna**, CEO, Ontario Heritage Trust

**Umbereen Inayet**, Programming Supervisor, City of Toronto

**Caroline Loewen**, Project Lead, Museums for Me, Alberta Museums Association

**Sonja Macdonald**, Co-Founder & Principal, Civicplan

**Cathy Molloy**, Director, Markham Museum

**Heather Montgomery**, Education and Evaluation Specialist, Bank of Canada Museum

**Sonia Mrva**, Manager Museums, City of Toronto

**Micah Parzen**, CEO, Museum of Us

**Sascha Priewe**, Director of Collections & Public Programs, Aga Khan Museum

**Michael Rikley-Lancaster**, Executive Director/Curator, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

**Paul Robertson**, City Curator, Cultural Services, City of Kingston

**Paul Shaker**, Co-Founder & Principal, Civicplan  
Karen Sinotte, Professor, George Brown College

**Madeline Smolarz**, Office, Operations, and Financial Manager, Oakville Galleries

**Jingshu Helen Yao**, Communication Coordinator, Museum Professionals of Colour, University of Toronto

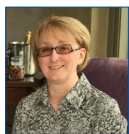
# OMA Annual Conference 2021



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/awards-of-excellence>

**Congratulations to our 2021 Awards of Excellence recipients!**

## Awards of Excellence



Distinguished Career of Excellence  
**Karen Bachmann**, Director and Curator  
Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre



Award of Excellence in Community Engagement with WOW Distinction  
**Hamilton Civic Museums and Civicplan**  
Reimagine Our Museums



Promising Leadership Award of Excellence  
**Hailey Hollingshead**



Award of Excellence in Exhibitions  
**Canadian Automotive Museum**  
Oshawa's Automotive Community



Volunteer Service Award of Excellence  
**Katharine Bourgon**, Volunteer  
Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery



Award of Excellence in Programs  
**Christina Sydorko, Oil Museum of Canada**  
Oil Museum of Canada Virtual Education



Award of Excellence on Special Projects  
**Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum**  
Safeguarding Our Shelter: Visitor Experience Renewal at the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum



Award of Excellence in Publications  
**The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery**  
Public Art in Glass – Publication

## Honourable Mentions



Community Engagement  
**Niagara Falls Museum**  
*The Poppy Project*



Programs  
**Thunder Bay Art Gallery**  
*Virtual Field Trip for Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine*



Special Projects  
**King Heritage & Cultural Centre**  
*Stories of King: An Online 3D Exhibition with Treasured, Inc.*



Canadian Automotive Museum (CAM) Award Presentation with Marie Lalonde (OMA Executive Director) and Alexander Gates (CAM Executive Director and Curator)

# Professional Development



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/professional-development/certificate-in-museum-studies>

## Certificate in Museum Studies (CMS)

The Ontario Museum Association Certificate in Museum Studies (CMS) is the only museum studies training program in Ontario offered on a part-time basis for museum workers, both paid and volunteer. Courses are taught by practitioners in the field whose theoretical knowledge and practical experience helps participants to learn best practice and meet the Standards for Community Museums in Ontario.

### CMS Graduates 2021



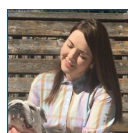
**Miguel Cysneiros**



**Sarah Kaufman**  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum



**Nadine Hammond**  
Museum on Tower Hill



**Kristi Kukk**  
Black Creek Pioneer Village



**Rosa Jones-Imhotep**

## Certificate in Museum Studies Courses 2021-2022 (online)

### Artifacts

Course Director: Cindy Colford  
May 31 – Aug 8, 2021

### Care of Collections

Course Director: Carmen Li  
Jan 17 – April 3, 2022

### Collections Management

Course Director: Janet Reid  
Sep 20 – Nov 28, 2021

### Education Programs

Course Director: Meredith Leonard  
Jan 17 – Mar 27, 2022

### Exhibit Planning & Design

Course Director: Meredith Leonard  
Feb 14 – April 24, 2022

### Museums & the Community

Course Director: Dr. Amy Barron  
Sep 27 – Nov 28, 2021

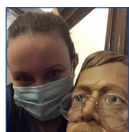
### Museums in Context

Course Director: Amber Lloydlangston  
May 3 – July 11, 2021

### Organization & Management

Course Director: Kathleen Powell  
Oct 4 – Dec 12, 2021

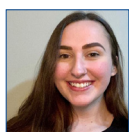
## OMA - Museum Studies and Heritage Programs Awards



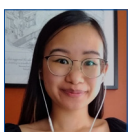
**Rheanna Costen**  
Applied Museum Studies Program,  
Algonquin College



**Megan Sue-Chue-Lam**  
Master of Museum Studies,  
University of Toronto



**Kathryn Smolinski**  
Museum Management and Curatorship,  
Fleming College



**Dominica Tang**  
Master of Museum Studies,  
University of Toronto



**Chloé Houde**  
Master of Museum Studies,  
University of Toronto



**Denise Tenio**  
Master of Museum Studies,  
University of Toronto

# Professional Development



<https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/professional-development>

## Webinars

The OMA was pleased to host several webinars this past year to aid the professional development of our sector and to facilitate shared learning experiences. Webinars covered a wide range of topics, from COVID-19 and funding opportunities, to governance and reimagination.

### **Reopening Museums Safely**

With the Public Services Health and Safety Association

Rob Oliver and Janice Gallant, Health and Safety Consultants, Public Services Health and Safety Association

### **An Introduction to Human-Centred Design & Creative Problem Solving**

With Overlap Associates

Rachel Hofstetter, Overlap Vice President & General Manager for Overlap Associates Canada

### **The Museums Assistance Program - an Overview and Q&A**

With the Department of Canadian Heritage

John Bell, Sarah Hill, and Bruce Borysiuk

### **Making Cultural Spaces Safe During COVID-19 Initiative from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund**

With Department of Canadian Heritage

Valerie Hopper and Sarah Hill

### **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act - Planning the transition for your museum**

With Community Legal Education Ontario

Benjamin Miller

### **From Living History to Living the History**

With Pickering Museum Village

Katrina Pyke and Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Wendy Rowney (moderator)

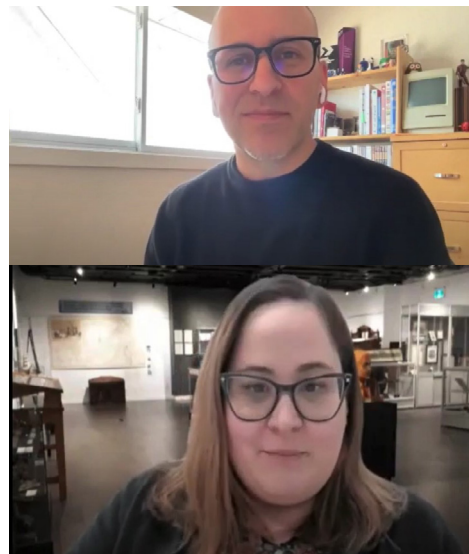
## Small Bytes: Supporting Digitization in Ontario's Smaller and Rural Museums

Small Bytes is an initiative of the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage. With this initiative, the OMA will provide accessible, high-quality online training opportunities to build the digital capacity and skills of Ontario's smaller and rural museums, to increase accessibility to their collections through digital initiatives.

The OMA has formed the Ontario Digital Museum Advisory Committee, made up of museum representatives who bring technical expertise and small and rural museum voices to the project.

### **Webinar 1: The Digital Strategy - Intention through Application**

With Corey Timpson, digital media expert, and Mary-Katherine Whelan, Curator at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum





# We Support Ontario Museums

## Mission

The Ontario Museum Association strengthens capacity among institutions and individuals active in Ontario's museum sector, facilitates excellence and best practices, and improves the communication and collaboration of its membership. The Association advocates for the important role of Ontario's museums to society, working with all stakeholders, related sectors and industries, and other professional organizations.

## Vision

The Ontario Museum Association (OMA) is the leading professional organization advancing a strong, collaborative, and inclusive museum sector that is vital to community life and the well-being of Ontarians.

## Our Roles



### **Advocate**

We create positive change for museums through proactive positioning while representing museums with stakeholders.



### **Convenor**

We are the nexus of a strong network, building a more collaborative and connected sector through events and communications.



### **Thought Leader**

We are a credible leader that advances the museum sector through research and the sharing of best practices within the sector.



### **Professional Body**

We provide professional development programs and internationally-recognized best practices to foster continued education.

# Towards 2025: OMA's Strategic Plan

<https://members.museumsontario.ca/about-us/strategic-plan>

"Towards 2025: the Ontario Museum Association's Strategic Plan" establishes priorities for the OMA to address from 2016-2021 – informed by sector visioning from "Ontario's Museums 2025: Strategic Vision and Action Plan." and "The Ontario Culture Strategy".

## Our goals:

Recommend and develop, in collaboration with members and funders, new museum funding models that are relevant, adequate, equitable, and accountable"

Strengthen skills, knowledge, innovation and excellence in museum work

Advance sector position through advocacy, research and stakeholder relations

Ensure the vitality and relevance of the OMA

# Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to our donors and our funders for your continued support of the OMA and Ontario's museums!

## Donors

Afifa Bari	Maureen Couse	Sharilyn Ingram	Gayle McIntyre	Rolande Smith
Shannon Baxter	Bev Dietrich	J.P. Thomson	Barbara McLean	Alexandra Sosso
Clark Bernat	Tara Dorey	Architects Ltd.	Heather Montgomery	Hugh Spencer
Danielle Black	Amy Dunlop	Aphrodite Karapanos	Karlene Ouellette	Dana Thorne
Amy Bowring	Nathan Etherington	Ian Kerr-Wilson	Donald Philip	Eva Tolkunow
Claudia Bustos	Kathy Fisher	Cara Krmpotich	Meredith Reid	Anne Unyi
Patrick Chisholm	Alexander Gates	Marie Lalonde	Michael Rikley-Lancaster	Karen VandenBrink
Travis Cinco	Richard Gibson	Michael Lundholm	Paul Robertson	Robert Wong
Cindy Colford	Jason Gonzalez Tinoco	Celina Marlatt	Annette Sandberg	Lily Worrall
Fabiola Corona	Alyssa Gutoskie	Stephanie Mazza	Gilles Séguin	Amal Zafar
Joe Corrigan	Sandra Hyduk	Sloane McDowell		Backus-Page House

**Did we miss your contribution? Please write to [oma@museumsontario.ca](mailto:oma@museumsontario.ca) and we will update our donor list online.**

## Funders

### PROVINCIAL FUNDING



Provincial Heritage Organizations

### FEDERAL FUNDING



Museums Assistance Program, Collections Management  
Digital Access to Heritage  
Young Canada Works Program

# Thank You to Our Conference Partners



# Leading the Sector

## Committees, Task Forces, & Working Groups

### **COUNCIL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Michael Rikley-Lancaster**, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
**Janis Monture**, Woodland Cultural Centre  
**Jonathan Paquette**, Muséoparc Vanier  
**Sascha Priewe**, Aga Khan Museum

### **COUNCIL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2021**

**Petal Furness**, OMA Past President  
**Alexander Gates**, Canadian Automotive Museum, Councillor  
**Suzanne Moase**, City of Niagara Falls Museums  
**Lori Nelson**, THE MUSE – Lake of the Woods Museum  
**Dana Thorne**, Lambton Heritage Museum

### **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Sonia Mrva**, Chair, City of Toronto  
**Joe Corrigan**, Lang Pioneer Village Museum  
**Cara Krmpotich**, University of Toronto

### **FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Cheryl Blackman**, Chair, City of Toronto  
**Kathy Fisher**, Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site  
**Heather Montgomery**, Bank of Canada

### **REGIONAL MUSEUM NETWORKS (RMN) STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Shawna Butts (from 2022)**, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum  
**Diana Carter (to 2021)**  
**Melissa Cole**, Oshawa Museum  
**Nathan Etherington**, Brant Historical Society  
**William Hollingshead**, Sault Ste. Marie Museum  
**Meredith Leonard**, City of Hamilton  
**Sara MacKenzie (from 2022)**, Ottawa Museum Network  
**Kathleen Powell (to 2021)**, St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre

### **MODERNIZING COMMUNITY MUSEUM FUNDING WORKING GROUP**

**Michael Rikley-Lancaster**, Chair, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
**Paul Robertson**, Cultural Services, City of Kingston  
**Alexander Gates**, Canadian Automotive Museum  
**Nathan Etherington**, Brant Historical Society

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Heather Montgomery**, Chair, Bank of Canada Museum  
**Bethany Aitchison**, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

**Kayleigh Speirs**, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre

**Susan Jama**, Toronto Ward Museum  
**Peg Dunnem**, Stratford Perth Museum

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY**

**Kathy Fisher**, Chair, Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site  
**Jody Seeley**, Meaford Museum  
**Susan Kun**, Board Member - Burlington Museums Board  
**Claire Bennett**, Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives  
**Rebecca Hicks**, City of Hamilton (Hamilton Civic Museums)  
**Phaedra Livingston**, Centennial College  
**Naomi Recollet**, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation  
**Pailagi Pandya**, Mackenzie House  
**Pauline Dolovich**, Reich & Petch  
**Keri Solomon**, Region of Waterloo Museums  
**Wendy Rowney**, Black Creek Pioneer Village

### **ONTARIO MUSEUM DIGITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Professor Karen Sinotte**, George Brown College

### **DIGITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Andrea Wilson**, Co-Chair, Craigeleith Heritage Depot  
**Christina Sydorko**, Co-Chair, Oil Museum of Canada  
**Adam Pollard (to 2022)**, City of Woodstock Museum  
**Elaine Gold**, Canadian Language Museum  
**Heidi Reitmaier**, Myseum of Toronto  
**Lori Nelson**, The Muse (Kenora)  
**Mary-Katherine Whelan**, Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
**Moyez Jadavji**, Aga Khan Museum  
**Julian Kingston (from 2022)**, Oakville Museum  
**Rick Miller**, Canadian Women in Film Museum  
**Sara MacKenzie**, Ottawa Museum Network

## Secretariat

**Marie Lalonde**, Executive Director  
**Mary Collier**, Professional Development Program Manager (to September 2022)  
**Jennifer Lee**, Membership and Administration Coordinator  
**Christopher Shackleton**, Digital Transformation Projects Coordinator

## Interns & Contract Staff

**Abigail Borja**  
**Emily Fu**  
**Laila Hack**  
**Natasha Jorge-Moore**  
**Veranika Krauchanka**

**Natalie Sadowski**  
**Aysha Turgeon**  
**Daryn Tyndale**  
**Ngon Yee Ho**

# Audited Summary Financial Statements

## Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Members and Council of the Ontario Museum Association

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at March 31, 2022, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Ontario Museum Association (the "Association") for the year ended March 31, 2022.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria described in the note to the summary financial statements.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Association and the auditor's report thereon.

## The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated June 24, 2022.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the note to the summary financial statements.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.



Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Toronto, Ontario  
July 25, 2022

## Summary Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022

March 31	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash	286,557	310,897
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	32,704	93,455
	319,261	404,352
Long-term investments	265,310	264,688
	584,571	669,040
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable, accrued liabilities, deferred revenue and deferred contributions	110,294	157,299
Loan payable	25,000	40,000
	135,294	197,299
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Endowment and restricted funds	247,672	247,050
Council restricted fund	102,961	102,961
Operating fund	98,644	121,730
	449,277	471,741
	584,571	669,040

# Audited Summary Financial Statements

## Summary Statement of Operations Year Ended March 31, 2022

Year ended March 31	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Revenues</b>		
Government contributions and grants	309,088	325,726
Government assistance	43,134	105,844
Memberships	130,200	123,295
Professional development and annual conference	79,078	98,473
Donations, contributions and miscellaneous	5,545	5,739
	<b>567,045</b>	<b>659,077</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Professional development and conference	144,089	122,598
Programs and projects	153,437	52,548
Administration	171,446	219,250
Advocacy	46,904	34,928
Community engagements	38,726	36,972
Governance	34,907	22,796
	<b>589,509</b>	<b>489,092</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year</b>	<b>(22,464)</b>	<b>169,985</b>

## Note to Summary Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2022

### Basis of presentation

These summary financial statements have been prepared from the audited financial statements of Ontario Museum Association for the year ended March 31, 2022 on a basis that is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements of Ontario Museum Association except that the information presented in respect of changes in net assets and cash flows has not been included and information disclosed in the notes to the financial statements has been reduced.

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

# Get Involved With Us

## Join the OMA

Become an individual, commercial, or institutional member of our growing network for access to professional development opportunities, connections with members across Ontario, and online resources.

## Partner at Our Conference

Develop new relationships and foster new business with Conference Delegates and their networks with your presence at an OMA conference.

## Support an OMA Event

Highlight your institution's hard work and contribute to the museum community by hosting a Certificate in Museum Studies Course or supporting an OMA workshop.

## Connect with Your MPP

We help build lasting relationships with elected officials to grow Ontario's cultural sector and bring awareness to the needs of institutions, stakeholders, and the public.

## Grow Your Practice

Take part in learning opportunities like the Certificate in Museum Studies courses or online webinars to develop expertise in variety of relevant topics for museums.

## Donate to the OMA

Your donations help to provide important resources that allow Ontario's museums to continue contributing to the vibrancy of Ontario's communities and the quality of life of all Ontarians.

## OMA Online

**Stay connected with us and the Ontario museum community through Instagram, Twitter and Facebook!**

2487  
followers



5536  
followers



3091  
followers



48

eNews Alerts  
sent in the  
past year

52

ONmuseum newsletters  
per year on topics of:

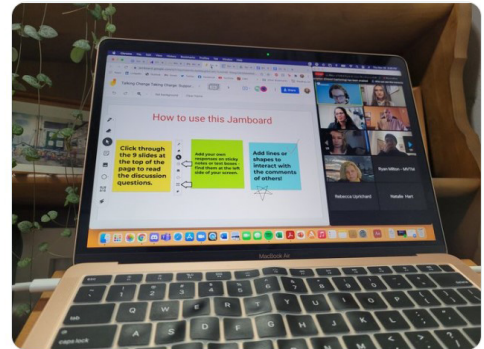
- Advocacy
- Professional development
- Resources
- Sector News

## @museumsontario OMA on Social Media



Madeline Smolarz (she/her/elle) @MadelineSmolarz · Nov 25, 2021

This is what presenting at #OMAConf2021 looks like this year 🙌 It's my pleasure to join a panel called "Talking Chnsge, Taking Charge: Supporting A Diverse Museum Workforce" right NOW! Very proud to represent #GOEMP as Chair.



You Retweeted

Diefenbunker Museum @diefenbunker · Nov 25, 2021

We are proud to be the 2021 recipient of the OMA Award of Excellence in Special Project for the renewal of our interpreted spaces at the Bunker. Thank you @museumsontario!

[members.museumsontario.ca/programs-event...](https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-event...)



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#MuseumsConnectON