

IRISH MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION FORUMS 2019:

EDUCATION & OUTREACH Friday 5 July 2018, 09:30-16:15

AV Lecture Theatre, National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, D7

SCHEDULE

- 09:30 – 09:45 Registration – AV Lecture Theatre
- 09:45 – 10:00 Welcome
- 10:00 – 11:00 ***Diversity and Inclusion World Café at the National Library of Ireland***
Maeve Casserly, Exhibitions, Learning, and Programming (ELP), National Library of Ireland.
- 14 Henrietta Street: A case study in audience-centered thinking***
Aalia Kamal, Head of Engagement and Gemma Sexton, Head of Visitor Experience, 14 Henrietta Street
- 11:00 – 11:30 Tea / Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 12:45 ***'Reimagine, Remake, Replay'- Engaging young people with heritage through digital and creative technologies***
Triona White Hamilton, Development Officer, Northern Ireland Museums Council and TBC, Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Service
- Culture Club Evolution***
Siobhan Pierce, Education Officer for Archaeology and Natural History and Annie Birney, Museum Educator for Archaeology, National Museum of Ireland, and TBC, Dublin City Council Culture Company
- Coding Culture: Closing the Gap between History and Technology***
Claire Murray, Head of Education, Irish Family History Centre and Shannon Wilson, Education and Outreach Officer, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum.
- 12:45 – 13:45 Lunch (*at own leisure*)
- 13:45 – 14:35 ***Working to Become Dementia Friendly***
Rachel Toner, Visitor Engagement Officer, Armagh Robinson Library
- Connecting people, places and heritage***
Gary Martin, Outreach Officer, Cavan Co Museum
- 14:40 – 15:30 ***Living Inside: six voices from the history of prison reform***
Brian Crowley, Curator of Collections, Kilmainham Gaol Museum; Catherine Cox, Associate Professor, UCD School of History; and Oisín Wall, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, UCD
- Curious Creatures: A Community Outreach Project at the Hugh Lane Gallery***
Kimberly Ann Griffith, Fulbright Scholar, Hugh Lane Gallery
- 15:30 – 16:00 Final Comments – Steps forward

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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES AND ABSTRACTS

Diversity and Inclusion World Café at the National Library of Ireland

In late 2017, the National Library of Ireland undertook to develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, publishing a finalised, public version in June 2018 (accessed via the NLI website at this [link](#)).

The NLI then established its Diversity and Inclusion Committee, a cross-organisational group put in place to advise and lead the NLI's Diversity & Inclusion work. A key priority of the policy centred on the need for the NLI to engage more fully with the communities and groups it seeks to better represent, serve and increase access to. As such, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee decided that a forum-style event, as a starting point, would help shape their next phase of activity.

Taking place on the 11th February, 2019, the NLI's Diversity and Inclusion Forum engaged with a broad spectrum of advocacy organisations, individual activists, embassies, and groups representing the Travelling Community, LGBTI, people with disabilities, gender equality, black, asian and minority ethnic [BAME], social disadvantage, young people, and other underrepresented communities. The forum provided a welcoming, open and engaging platform for participants to provide their feedback and ideas on how the NLI can be more inclusive. Participants were selected on the basis of their involvement with / representation of a range of communities encompassing, but not limited to, the nine grounds (gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community) established in equality legislation.

This paper will discuss the input of the NLI's Exhibitions, Learning, and Programming Department on the Diversity & Inclusion World Café Forum and the impact the Forum findings have had on the workings of the Learning team specifically.

Maeve Casserly has been working in the cultural heritage sector for the last six years, and has been a member of the Education and Learning team of the National Library of Ireland since 2015. She is a founding member of the NLI's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, established in 2018 to oversee the implementation of its 2018-2021 Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Maeve completed an M.Phil in Public History and Cultural Heritage in Trinity College Dublin in 2014, and is currently undertaking research on visitor engagement policy for cultural institutions in the Decade of Centenaries for a PhD in University College Dublin. Maeve has been awarded a Creative-Ireland Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on suffrage history in the Harry Ransom Centre, Austin Texas, which she will undertake in Spring 2020. Through this research Maeve will lead public engagement with the Harry Ransom Centre collections around the 2020 centenary of women's suffrage in the United States of America. Maeve is the current Dublin City Council Historian in Residence (2017-2020) for the South-East Area.

14 Henrietta Street: A case study in audience-centered thinking.

14 Henrietta Street is a heritage site located in Dublin's north inner city which recently opened to the public after a 10-year programme of restoration and conservation. The site is operated by Dublin City Council Culture Company, also recently founded. Embedded at the core of the curatorial conceit of 14 Henrietta Street and enshrined in the mission and vision of Dublin City Council Culture Company is audience-centered thinking.

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This dual-presented paper, will describe how these commitments translate into the development and curation of our collection and programming - as well as touching on organizational structure, practicalities and 'outcomes'. We will describe how the Head of Engagement and Head of Visitor Experience, work together to deliver meaningful and relevant engagement-led museum programming that also develops audience. In doing so, we will detail a practical example of an institution seeking to put the values of engagement, participation and social contribution at its core.

We will describe how our community engagement programme and model for participation is embedded in 14 Henrietta Street and give practical examples of how the work we do is founded on the simple premise that cultural relevance comes from connection.

Aalia Kamal is the head of engagement with Dublin City Council Culture Company. She is responsible for ensuring that the work of the company serves to connect as many people as possible to culture in their local area and across Dublin. She has previously held roles at the Art Fund (the UK national art charity) and the UK National Audit Office as well as the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Gemma Sexton is head of visitor experience at 14 Henrietta Street and is responsible for the day-to-day management of 14 Henrietta Street, including audience development and programming. She has previously held education and outreach roles in the National Gallery of Ireland, Tallaght Community Arts and recently worked in the GAA Museum managing sales and operations.

'Reimagine, Remake, Replay' - Engaging young people with heritage through digital and creative technologies

'Reimagine, Remake, Replay' is a 4 year project enabling 16-25 year olds from across Northern Ireland to connect with and enhance museum collections using a mix of creative media and the latest digital technologies.

Young people make and curate their own exhibitions, take over museum spaces, and enhance existing exhibits and collections through virtual reality, filmmaking, photography, 3D scanning and printing, and event management, all while developing their own innovative content.

Having completed the development phase and half of year 1 delivery phase there has been much learning for those involved so far. This presentation will share insights on various aspects of the project from; project structure and management; recruitment and retention of young people; digital activities; pr and marketing; and organisational change in museums.

The project is delivered by the Nerve Centre, National Museums Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Museums Council and Northern Ireland Screen. It is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund's 'Kick the Dust' programme which aims to make heritage relevant to the lives of young people.

Local museum partners include; Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Service, Mid and East Antrim Museum Service, Newry and Mourne Museum, North Down Museum, Fermanagh County Museum, and Tower Museum.

Triona White Hamilton is a committed advocate of the arts and heritage sector and a passionate driver of an audience – centred approach. She has worked with museums and collections north and south of the border since 2005 and has been the Development Officer (Collections and Museums) at Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) for 6 years.

Her role at NIMC includes: planning, developing and managing audience development initiatives; supporting and developing plans to improve standards in collections care, management and interpretation; administering the UK Museum Accreditation Scheme; as well as developing and managing training initiatives in support of all of the above.

Culture Club Evolution

Developing and tailoring the right programmes to fit specific audiences is a key skill that cultural educators develop and use in their daily work. How to programme in partnership with other organisations is also a key educator skill, and enables varied, sustainable and responsive programming. How then in practice does programming with a partner organisations work, and how to ensure both organisations aims are met and that the programme respond to audience needs?

Culture Club at the National Museum of Ireland-Archaeology, brought to the public in partnership with Dublin City Council Culture Company (DCCC), has been running for a year. This talk will explore how it has evolved in that short time and become one of the most successful elements of the museum's adult programming. The speakers will explain how the original aims of the museum and the DCCC in establishing the programme guided the initial schedule and format for the events. Discussion will also centre on how feedback has informed the subsequent evolution of the programme, the tailoring of the programme schedule, content and format.

Siobhan Pierce is the education officer for Archaeology and Natural History. She has a Bachelor of Art degree in History and Archaeology, and a Master of Arts in Irish History from UCD, as well as a post-graduate diploma in Arts Management from UCD. Siobhan has been working at the National Museum of Ireland since 2000 and has worked on numerous projects and departments since joining the Museum, including as a curator on the Soldiers and Chiefs exhibition at Collins barracks, but primarily has worked in the Education and Outreach Department at Kildare Street.

Annie Birney is a museum educator for Archaeology at the National Museum of Ireland. She began working at Waterford Museum of Treasures at the age of 17 and this is where she first became interested in museum education. She obtained a BA in Archaeology and French at University College Cork (2012), before completing an MPhil in Public History and Cultural Heritage at Trinity College Dublin (2014). Before joining the National Museum of Ireland she was the education officer at Glasnevin Cemetery Museum.

Coding Culture: Closing the Gap between History and Technology

STEM and Arts subjects are often at loggerheads, competing for space, funding and attention. However, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum is a fully digital museum, where artefacts are exchanged for experience, and weaving through the vaults is a rollercoaster of emotion due to the fascinating stories of the Irish diaspora. We see a true partnership between storytelling and technology: between past and future.

'TECHXIBIT: Coding Culture' is a programme that not only allows students to see and experience the technology of EPIC, it encourages them to try it out for themselves. Tech and history-focused tours are combined with hands-on coding workshops, which teach young people how to curate and code their own digital museum. Students may walk in a little intimidated by programming, but have left with pride, excitement, and curiosity for more.

Developed to be incredibly accessible and encouraging to beginners, the workshops are also broad enough that those with experience can adapt and put their own stamp on their work. 'Coding Culture' was developed to highlight the importance of closing that gap between history and technology, and to show that the best space to learn, regardless of ability, is a shared one.

Shannon Wilson is the education and outreach officer for EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum. She obtained a BA in Media Studies from The University of West London (2014) and an MSc in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology (2017) from the University of Oxford. With a background in content creation across media and museums, she has worked with the Pitt Rivers Museum, the RAF Museum, the Ark Children's Cultural Centre and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Shannon joined EPIC Museum as the events co-ordinator in July 2018, before taking up her current role in March 2019.

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Claire Murray is head of education for the Irish Family History Centre. She obtained a BA in Ancient and Medieval History and Culture from Trinity College Dublin (2014) and a P.G Dip in Museum Studies (2017) from the University of Leicester. She began her career in heritage and museum education in 2012 with Kerry County Museum. Claire joined the Irish Family History Centre in May 2016 as education and outreach Officer. In January 2018 she adopted the same position in EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, and divided her time equally between both. From January 2019, she assumed the full-time position of Head of Education for the Irish Family History Centre.

Working to Become Dementia Friendly

The presentation will outline how the staff of Armagh Robinson Library and No 5 Vicars' Hill have been working towards becoming a dementia friendly museum. As an accredited museum, we work closely with the Northern Ireland Museums Council, and with NIMC's encouragement and financial support, we have started to engage with the Alzheimer's Society NI, Dementia NI and other groups to learn how to welcome and value people with dementia. The presentation will highlight what the Library has learned from working with groups, and what training has been undertaken, as well as other learning curves. It will show the steps taken by the Library to implement what has been learned on a daily basis in both our buildings. It will also refer to specific events, which have been run, to build connections with those living with dementia, with carers and with representatives from the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia NI.

Finally, the presentation will outline the plans for maintaining the connections for future projects and events, so that we may continue our aim to become a dementia friendly museum.

Rachel Toner is the visitor engagement officer with Armagh Robinson Library. She is from Armagh City and after recently graduating with a Masters Degree from Queen's University Belfast, is keen to expand her experience in working in the arts sector. Rachel is particularly interested in how the arts and arts organisations can explore outreach and working with 'forgotten groups' of people. Rachel has been working in Armagh Robinson Library and No 5 Vicars' Hill since 2015, firstly volunteering with them after completing her Undergraduate Degree.

Connecting People, Places and Heritage

Connecting People, Places and Heritage is a cross border/cross community peace funded project that has been delivered by Cavan County Museum since 2004. This project provides sustained and meaningful contact between persons of different backgrounds and promotes peace and reconciliation by exploring past conflicts and their legacy for new generations.

The project has worked with school groups, adult groups, special interest groups and youth groups. Currently, youth groups from both Cavan and Fermanagh are recruited to form partnerships. These partnerships meet on a routine basis over the course of several months. These meetings explore and examine issues and themes such as racism, prejudice, discrimination, tolerance and acceptance. A major theme throughout the project is conflict and loss.

The result of this work is the creation of a joint programme output created and designed by the groups to be located within the Museums Peace Garden. This promotes the idea of the groups leaving 'an artefact' behind in the museum. This is not only an acknowledgement of their work but also can be used as a resource for future groups and museums visitors.

Gary Martin is an outreach officer for Cavan County Museum. He completed his undergraduate degree and graduated with a joint honours in History and Sociology at Maynooth University in 2015, following which he completed a master's degree in Military History and Strategic Studies at Maynooth University and a postgraduate degree in Museum Practice and Management at Ulster University. A former volunteer with Newry and Down Museum and Armagh County Museum, he has been employed as an outreach officer at Cavan County Museum delivering a cross border/cross community project called Connecting People, Places and Heritage since 2017. This involves recruiting groups, managing a budget and organising, structuring and delivering group meetings. Along with this, he assists in delivering the education programme to schools, delivering tours, and curating exhibitions.

Curious Creatures: A Community Outreach Project at the Hugh Lane Gallery

Curious Creatures is a collaborative community outreach project that seeks to engage youth in underserved areas of Dublin City. The springboard for this project is an exploration of curiosity. Through direct engagement with *Our Plundered Planet*, the Hugh Lane Gallery's temporary exhibition of works by Mark Dion, participants are encouraged to explore their natural curiosities by creating artwork inspired by the exhibition and sharing their own unique stories and interpretations of the works on display.

Over the course of his artistic oeuvre, Mark Dion has used his interest in the natural world as a lens to explore human curiosity and the nature of inquiry, interrogating the ways in which knowledge is both acquired and disseminated through institutions. *Curious Creatures* uses these themes as a starting point, engaging the methodologies of Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) and kinesthetic learning through artist-led gallery tours and workshops to enhance gallery permeability for young people.

Utilizing access to the arts as a catalyst, young people from secondary schools and after school programmes including Sphere 17 are empowered to share their analyses and responses to issues raised by the exhibition such as human impact on the environment and the role of educational institutions in society.

Kimberly Ann Griffith is the Hugh Lane Gallery's 2018-2019 Fulbright Scholar in the department of Education and Community Outreach. In addition to supporting the Gallery's extensive schedule of education programmes, Kimberly is curating a community outreach project targeting teens in secondary schools and afterschool programmes in underserved areas of Dublin City.

She holds a BFA in Film and Television Production from New York University (Tisch School of the Arts) and is completing a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies and Museum Studies at Claremont Graduate University in California. Prior to moving to Dublin, Kimberly was an intern in Disney's Imagineering Archive, where she helped to digitize the Archive's collection of works on paper. Her research is primarily in the fields of modern and contemporary art and feminist art criticism.

Living Inside: Six voices from the history of Irish prison reform

Living Inside: Six voices from the history of Irish prison reform is an exhibition at Kilmainham Gaol Museum, Dublin (9 February – 19 May 2019). It explores the history of health, protest, and reform in Irish prisons between the 1970s and 2000s. This paper examines some of the challenges of curating this exhibition. It will also look at the ways in which museums and third-level educational institutions can work together to create exhibitions which allow visitors to access the latest academic research in an engaging and stimulating way.

In the 1970s the Prisoners' Rights Organisation used individuals' stories to highlight the collective suffering of non-political prisoners in Ireland. They attempted to use these stories to challenge the dehumanising anonymity of the prison. *Living Inside* intentionally adapted this tactic, retelling some of the PRO's stories, while also updating the repertoire to include recent cases as well as the perspectives of activists on the outside, prison officers, and teachers. Although the exhibitions' narratives are less partisan and adversarial than the PRO's, the intention is similar; to humanise, for visitors, those involved in the prison system by putting real names, faces, and experiences to complex systemic problems.

Adopting this tactic in the context of the historically secretive prison system brings serious challenges. How do we identify individuals' stories? What are the ethical implications of using them in this public context? How do we find material to represent them? This paper explores the challenges of curating an exhibition like this. Drawing on the detailed data and feedback collated during the exhibition, it also evaluates the effectiveness of the approach on both national and international audiences.

Dr Catherine Cox is associate professor in the UCD School of History and director of the UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland. She is principal investigator on a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award, 'Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000'. Catherine is secretary for the Royal Irish Academic Historical Studies Committee, deputy chair of Irish Committee of Historical Sciences, member of the Executive Committee of Social for the Social History of Medicine and of Economic and Social History Society of Ireland.

Dr Oisín Wall is a historian and curator based in University College Dublin at the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland. He is currently working on 'Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000'. His strand of research is focused on the instrumentalisation of health by non-political prisoner activists and the prisoner rights movement in Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s. Oisín is the curator of Ordinary Prisoners at Kilmainham Gaol Museum.

Brian Crowley is the curator of collections for Kilmainham Gaol Museum and former curator of Pearse Museum in St Enda's Park, Dublin. He is the author of Patrick Pearse – A Life in Pictures. He studied English and History in Trinity College and completed a Masters in Museology in the University of East Anglia. Brian has been working with the Office of Public Works since 2001 and is a former chair of the Irish Museums Association (2012 – 2017).

Supporters:

The Education and Outreach forum is an initiative of the Irish Museums Association, convened by Gina O'Kelly, Irish Museums Association; Dr Olwen Purdue, Queens University Belfast; Julia Walsh, Tipperary County Museum; and Ian Brunswick, Science Gallery Dublin.

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