



# TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

#GLAM2018

Galleries, Libraries,  
Archives, and Museums  
Summit 2018

## Abstracts of Sessions

**Keynote Speaker: The Honourable Patricia Bovey, Independent Senator for Manitoba**  
**Keynote Address: Responding, Challenging and Leading: the Arts, Societal Needs and Senate Initiatives**

Senator Bovey will speak about the role of galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAMs) in relation to societal expectations as Canada enters its second 150 years as a nation. Canada is a country built on diverse immigrant peoples, its citizenry comprises people from every country around the world—the only nation to be so—and of course we are blessed with the richness and depth of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada, many of whom have been here for millennia. With this diversity and depth, we are the envy of many around the world. Globally, people want to know more about Canada.

There is no question that the changing external world order is having tremendous impacts on us all in every part of the country, and beyond, with climate change, our own challenges for reconciliation and healing between Canada's Indigenous peoples and the non-Indigenous populations, and increased immigration from war-torn parts of the world. These issues only serve to enhance our responsibilities.

GLAMs also have increasing responsibilities to be leaders in education for all our publics, giving voice through our collections, research, exhibitions, publications and programs, to showcase Canada's many immigrants, and in turn to tell them our stories. Society expects us to enable the understanding of the multicultural dimensions of our country. While we have all presented exhibitions showing aspects of many of our immigrant cultures, are we reaching out to recent refugees and immigrants as we might, both showcasing their roots and giving them an understanding of Canada, our history and our values as a nation? Are we presenting stories in a way that have currency to those who may not speak either of our official languages? Are we in fact presenting opportunities for language acquisition?

### **Panel I: GLAMs and Communities**

We know that strategic partnerships can leverage shared resources and best practices to benefit GLAMs and the diverse cultural, business and even political communities we serve. But effective collaboration is not easy. Using regional case studies as examples, the panel will speak to insights, benefits and lessons learned from innovative GLAM partnerships, and provide actionable strategies that can positively impact local communities.

**Moderator:** Maureen Sawa, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Victoria Public Library, and Past Chair, Canadian Urban Libraries Council

**Panellists:**

- Heather Kelly, Founder/Director, Bloor St. Culture Corridor
- Andrea Stewart, Co-Chair, Libraries, Archives and Museums Nova Scotia
- Daphne Wood, Past President, British Columbia Library Association

**Panel II: GLAMs and Indigenous Communities**

What are the different ways in which GLAMs are engaging and collaborating with different communities? In this panel, we will explore how GLAMs and Indigenous communities and individuals are working together. With a push from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, GLAMs are beginning a new conversation with Indigenous peoples, and this has prompted many interesting new initiatives.

GLAMs contain treasuries of First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit experiences, histories and knowledge. Curation of Indigenous cultural resources raises special and complex issues that demand culturally appropriate protocols in the context of changing professional practices.

The panel may explore examples of how Indigenous communities are using and finding value in GLAM collections, as well as interesting initiatives and collaborations with Indigenous peoples in different sectors of the GLAM community.

Members of the panel may reflect on the professional practices in place in GLAMs and consider how we might respond better to Indigenous peoples and communities, and the challenges faced by memory institutions to acquire, preserve and make known Indigenous cultural resources.

**Moderator:** Petal Furness, President, Ontario Museum Association, and Museum Manager, Grey Roots Museum & Archives

**Panellists:**

- Alan Ojiig Corbiere, Anishinaabe Historian, M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Chief Dr. Ronald E. Ignace, Chief of the Skeetchestn Band
- Tim Johnson, Executive Producer of RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World and former Smithsonian Institution executive

**Keynote Speaker: Sara Diamond**

**Keynote Address: Archiving Creativity**

Archives are a fundamental resource for the future because they tell us about our past. As a young artist and historian preoccupied with the history of women and work, Sara Diamond immersed herself in Canada's archives, to uncover hidden histories. Many decades later, she is consolidating her primary research into an archive that others can access. Dr. Diamond's talk will refer to this past practice yet underscore the enduring value of archives in the 21st century,

a time of database culture, and note the ways that these two practices differ and complement. As the digital era began, debates in the archive community and among its users focused in part on what should be digitized. These discussions remain relevant in considering the cultural artifacts of the past. Dr. Diamond will note current efforts and challenges in archiving culture at the edge, and point to some of the currently vibrant conversation about strategies to archive digital creativity to preserve it for future generations.

### **Panel III: GLAMs and the Private Sector**

In his presentation, Chris Kitzan will focus on how to position GLAM organizations to be relevant to industry stakeholders. Chris will share his experiences over the last two years building the Aero/Space Knowledge and Skills Network—including successes, missteps and unexpected lessons. He will discuss how he has gone about busting some myths (we are not here just to collect your old stuff) and selling the big vision, and will outline how the underlying mission has been to change industry's perception of the Canada Aviation and Space Museum's value while becoming a key contributing member within the larger aero/space ecosystem.

**Moderator:** Vickery Bowles, Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library

**Speaker:** Chris Kitzan, Director General, Canada Aviation and Space Museum

#### **Discussants:**

- Andrea Cohen Barrack, Vice President, Community Relations and Corporate Citizenship, TD Corporation
- Rupert Duchesne, Vice President, Board of Trustees, Art Gallery of Ontario
- Douglas Knight, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation

### **Panel IV: GLAMs and Government Priorities**

GLAMs acquire, preserve and provide access to a society's history and culture. Their rich collections and expertise can also complement the priorities and interests of all levels of governments (federal, provincial, local/municipal), whether in support of open government, reconciliation with Indigenous people and communities, Canada's creative economy, or fostering and strengthening governance within regional and local communities.

The panel will explore how GLAMs can carry out their mandates and connect their collections to the interests of various levels of governments, in ways that are nimble, innovative and collaborative. The aim is also to explore the various facets of the relationship between GLAMs and governments. This encompasses how government agendas impact the GLAM community and, conversely, how GLAMs can influence decision-makers at various levels and over both the short and long terms.

**Moderator:** Jessica Johnson, Executive Editor and Creative Director, *The Walrus*

**Panellists:**

- Angela Cassie, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Programs, Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Susan Wright, Deputy Director, Toronto Arts Council

**Keynote Speaker: Jack Lohman, Chief Executive Officer, Royal BC Museum****Keynote Address: GLAM's Moral Future: Making Up for Lost Time**

In an era of unprecedented change and polarizing politics, Jack Lohman shows how politically charged our work can be, how topicality is not easy and requires nuance, and urges us to widen our view of the past as a way of opening ourselves to the world.