
MUSEUMS RESPOND

STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM & HATE

SUMMIT AGENDA

MARCH 5, 2024

8:45 - 9:20am Registration, breakfast, and networking

9:20 - 9:35am **Welcome**

Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, IMLS
Melissa Martens Yaverbaum, Executive Director, CAJM

9:35 - 9:50am **Introduction: Antisemitism Today, What's at Stake**

Eric K. Ward — Executive Vice President of Race Forward — introduces the roots of contemporary antisemitism, how it undermines our democracy, and why we need to address it together.

9:50am Overview of Summit facilitation process

10:00 - 11:10am **Session 1: Evolving Narratives on Antisemitism in America**

Our opening panel will explore past and present narratives about antisemitism in America, the need for new interpretive starting points and directions, and the challenges and opportunities of sharing new narratives with the public.

Speakers:

Josh Perelman, Consultant, Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History

Britt P. Tevis, Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University

Dov Waxman, Chair of Israel Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Moderator: Avi Y. Decter, Summit Co-Chair, CAJM

11:10 - 12:15pm **Session 2: Collections as Evidence / Collections for Engagement**

As repositories of history and memory, collections are a core strength — documenting experiences of persecution, showing the resilience and variety of cultures, and providing ways to engage communities in new understandings that can bridge differences and counter antisemitism.

Speakers:

Sarah A. Clunis, Executive Director, The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Wadsworth Atheneum

Jenna Leventhal, Interim Director of Programs, USC Shoah Foundation

Lisa Sasaki, Deputy Under Secretary for Special Projects, Smithsonian Institution

Moderator: Judith Rosenbaum, CEO, Jewish Women's Archive

12:15 - 1:00pm Small group discussions, continuing over lunch

1:00 - 1:45pm Lunch

1:45 - 2:50pm **Session 3: Convening Conversations with Communities**

As public-facing institutions that serve a wide range of publics, how can we function as safe harbors for exploration and dialog – and what do we need to do to expand our capacities and skills in convening needed community conversations, especially in times of crisis?

Speakers:

Adam McKinney, Artistic Director, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Sarah Pharaon, Principal, Dialogic Consulting

Annie Polland, President, Tenement Museum

Moderator: Jordanna Gessler, Chief Impact Officer, Holocaust Museum LA

2:50 - 3:55pm **Session 4: Holocaust Museums, Memorials, and Antisemitism**

Leaders from Holocaust and memorial museums share their evolving educational strategies that respond to the resurgence of antisemitism in a rapidly shifting and polarized environment.

Speakers:

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO, Illinois Holocaust Museums and Education Center
Gretchen Skidmore, Director of Education Initiatives, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Carole Zawatsky, CEO, Tree of Life Memorial Museum
Moderator: Judith Margles, Summit Co-Chair, CAJM

3:55pm Facilitation updates

4:00 - 5:00pm Museum viewing & informal conversation groups

5:00pm Evening event opens

5:15 - 5:30pm Evening welcomes
Cyndee Landrum, Deputy Director, Office of Library Services, IMLS
Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, IMLS
Tsione Wolde-Michael, Executive Director, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
Melissa Martens Yaverbaum, Executive Director, CAJM
Lou Cove, Founder and President, CANVAS

5:30 - 6:45pm **Session 5: Jewish Arts and Creative Expression —
Building Understanding through Culture**

What opportunities can the arts open up for museums to show the complexity and variety of Jewish experience, build cultural fluency and understanding, and awaken a different sense of ourselves and others?

Speakers:

Micaela Diamond, Actress and Singer
Kendell Pinkney, Executive Artistic Director, The Workshop
Francesco Spagnolo, Curator, Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life
Moderator: Laura Mandel, Executive Director, Jewish Arts Collaborative
Closing performance: Galeet Dardashti

MARCH 6, 2024

8:30 - 9:00am Registration, breakfast, and networking

9:00 - 9:15am Welcome Back

Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, IMLS

Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Executive Director, Association of African American Museums

Gabriel Goldstein, Summit Co-Chair, CAJM, and Interim Director and Chief Curator, Yeshiva University Museum

9:15 - 10:15am Session 6: Communicating with Children

This session explores how museums can better serve families and children by illustrating Jewish culture, building empathy between communities, and countering antisemitism — using new exhibition techniques, partnerships, shared resources, and experimentation.

Speakers:

Fraidy Aber, Constance Wolf Director of Education and Civic Engagement, Contemporary Jewish Museum

Sara Softness, Curator of Special Projects, Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Moderator: Andrew Ackerman, Consultant

Closing performance: Ben Gundersheimer

10:15 - 11:00am Small group discussions

11:00 - 12:00pm Session 7: Building and Sustaining Long-term Partnerships

This session will discuss opportunities and challenges in forging cross-cultural alliances, as museums and libraries work to illuminate history from multiple perspectives, build trust, and incubate new possibilities in a shared society.

Speakers:

Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, IMLS

Devon Akmon, Director, Michigan State University Museum

Felton Thomas, Executive Director, Cleveland Public Library

Moderator: Marsha Semmel, Summit Co-Chair, CAJM

12:00 - 12:45pm Lunch, with small group discussions

12:45 - 1:45pm **Session 8: Re-Charting A Shared Future**

In reflecting on our Summit deliberations, how do we envision moving forward together while strengthening democracy, countering antisemitism and hate, and working across differences for the sake of a stronger and healthier collective future?

Speakers:

Amy Spitalnick, CEO, Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Eric K. Ward, Executive Vice President, Race Forward

Moderator: Judith Margles, Program Co-Chair, CAJM

1:45 - 2:00pm **Concluding Remarks**

Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director, Office of Museum Services, IMLS

Melissa Martens Yaverbaum, Executive Director, CAJM