



2016 Educators Conference Summary

On January 9th, about 20 people gathered in San Francisco for the second AIA Educator's Conference. The daylong event built on last year's conference in New Orleans. The program focused on two main topics—professionalization of heritage outreach efforts especially in terms of generating research and data and on creating a statement of ethics for these activities. A portion of the program was also devoted to following up on the calls to action that had been made in the 2015 meeting.

Following-up on the 2015 Conference:

Evaluations: It was exciting to discover that a number of educators heeded last year's call to implement more evaluations of their programs which produced measureable results from a variety of programs. Attendees discussed the creation of a plan to conduct coordinated evaluations for International Archaeology Day 2016. The idea was to encourage several different groups to use a similar evaluation strategy to collect data that would then be easier to compare and evaluate.

Publications: Eleanor King is currently editing a special issue of *Advances in Archaeological Practice* on evaluating heritage education. The idea of the issue came together at the 2015 meeting. In addition to discussing the current publication, Eleanor led a session that discussed strategies for flooding archaeological (and educational) publications with well-researched and data-driven reports and essays on heritage education and outreach programs. All heritage educators are encouraged to prepare articles and pursue publication. Eleanor will compile and circulate a list of possible publication venues.

Organizations: Eleanor also provided updates on Project Archaeology and the newly formed The Heritage Education Network (THEN). Project Archaeology is looking to broaden its appeal and become an important resource for educators. THEN is currently defining its mission which will include, in part, being a clearinghouse accessible to educators.

The 2016 Meeting

Heritage Education Ethics Statement: Conference attendees worked together to draft an ethics statement for Heritage Education. The statement will be circulated for review and comments. Many thanks to Megg Heath who came up with an initial draft and led the session!



- Reboot idea of what education is (not just K-12)
- Have a separate heritage education conference
- Raise visibility of heritage education
- Professional development recognition (RPA model)
- Recognition for K-12 educators

Lightning Show & Tell

The following people participated in Lightning Show & Tell this year:

Meg Morden	Filebox Excavations and Make your Own Mummy
Andrew Carroll	Guess Who? Soil Edition
Craig Lesh	Results from 'Archaeology Adventure' Program
Carol Ng-He	Project Archaeology: Investigating Nutrition
	Archaeology and Experiential Learning as
	Community Engagement
Rebecca Sgouros and Matt Stirn	Mapping Activity
Marsha McCoy	Making Cylinder Seals

Alternative Evaluation Strategies

Conference goers brainstormed evaluation strategies for different types of education programs. In the coming months, a list of these evaluation strategies will be circulated for review.

Several conference attendees volunteered to implement identical evaluations at several programs (such as archaeology fairs) that occur on International Archaeology Day in order to create a larger data set.

Wrap Up

At the end of the conference, participants discussed strategies and timelines for implementing short term goals.

Attendees were eager to meet again next year at the AIA meeting in Toronto as well as plan sessions for other related conferences.

The 2016 conference was a great success. Participants left San Francisco feeling focused and productive and excited about the momentum that heritage education is gaining. We look forward to hearing updates about progress made and to another productive meeting in Toronto.