



## **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!



The word cloud from the Ethics Statement is presented below:



**Identifying Goals for Heritage Education:** Conference attendees outlined both short term and long term goals for heritage education.

*Short term goals include:*

- Creation, distribution, and wide adoption of ethics statement on heritage education
- Increasing communication amongst heritage education community (will be pursued through [aia-outreach-and-education@googlegroups.com](mailto:aia-outreach-and-education@googlegroups.com) listserv)
- Collecting relevant publications: discussion of an Academia page to collect resources, post conference papers, and Mel Harvey's Google spreadsheet.
- Providing more professional development opportunities
  - January 2017 conference at Archaeology Center at University of Toronto (and possibly a poster session?)
  - Other potential venues: SAA, ASOR, WAC, SHA, NAI, AAA, and EAA
- More journal articles in archaeology and education journals
- Coordinated effort to perform evaluations for International Archaeology Day.
  - Share evaluation tools
  - Have same evaluation implemented at multiple sites
  - Create evaluations for different event types

*Long term goals include:*

- Building legitimacy within academic community and archaeological organizations



- 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.