

**GEM CONFERENCE 2018 – Call for Papers**  
**Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham**  
**Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 September 2018**

## ***PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE***

# **CALL FOR BREAKOUT, WORKSHOP & GEM MEMBER PRESENTATION PROPOSALS**

**Deadline for proposals: Tuesday 29 May 2018**

## **I INTRODUCTION**

To celebrate GEM's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year's conference will be exploring how the landscape of heritage education has evolved over time with a look to what lies ahead for the sector.

What have we learned from previous practices and how can we ensure a sustainable and vibrant heritage education provision both now and in the future? There will be a focus on current innovative practices, which challenge previously held norms and have adapted to an ever shifting financial landscape. We shall also consider what the future holds and look at how we take our shared learning forward.

The GEM 2018 conference will be of immense help to anyone involved in managing or delivering museum, heritage or cultural learning. We shall reflect upon the progress that we have made and the possibilities open to us, so that we can move forward together with renewed positivity. Most of all, we shall seek to empower the workforce, as the roles of learning and sharing in the lives of the public grow ever more important.

**This is your chance to contribute to and shape this year's GEM conference.  
We really do value your help and participation!**

## 2 KEY INFORMATION

- Dates: **Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 September 2018**
- Venue: **Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham**  
(Note: on Wednesday and Thursday the workshops may be held in a museum in the city centre)
- Theme: **Past, Present and Future**
- Threads: The following “threads” will be explored throughout the conference:
  - **Sharing the learning from the heritage sector, with a focus on the evolution of our practices, audiences and outcomes.**
  - **Exploring current ground-breaking programmes, challenging previous thinking and developing new models.**
  - **Looking to future trends in heritage education, posing possible solutions and innovative working practices to address these.**
- Sessions: Keynote speeches, Breakout sessions, Workshops, and GEM member presentations (case studies).
- Closing date: The closing date for applications to present a breakout, workshop or member presentation session is **Tuesday 29 May 2018**.

## 3 CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of this year’s conference is **Past, Present and Future**. To celebrate GEM’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary the conference will be exploring how the landscape of heritage education has evolved over time with a look to what lies ahead for the sector.

The conference will be asking two key questions:

1. What have we learned from previous practices?
2. How can we ensure a sustainable and vibrant heritage education provision both now and in the future?

The conference will be exploring three major “threads”:

1. Sharing the learning from the heritage sector, with a focus on the evolution of our practices, audiences and outcomes.
2. Exploring current ground-breaking programmes, challenging previous thinking and developing new models.
3. Looking to future trends in heritage education, posing possible solutions and innovative working practices to address these.

We are now inviting proposals for breakout, workshops and member presentations on the theme of *Past, Present and Future*.

We really hope you have some insights into the conference theme and threads. Do you have practical experience to share from your own organisation you would like to share? Remember, we often learn a lot from something that goes wrong – please don’t be afraid to share your bitter experiences for the benefit of others! If you can run a session we should be delighted to hear from you.

## 4 SESSION TYPES

Based on delegate feedback over many years, GEM has developed the structure of its conference to suit a wide variety of delegates (from those just entering the profession to those with many years of experience) and to accommodate a range of individual learning styles. We clearly cannot please everybody all the time but we are very successful in pleasing most delegates for most of the time!

The conference takes place each year at a different venue across the UK. Although there is often a strong “local flavour”, the conference gives a good overview of what is happening in heritage education and what the current issues are not only across the UK but also internationally.

We have a range of session types, the main characteristics of which are given below:

- **Keynotes:** We usually invite high-profile speakers from inside and outside the museum and heritage education sector to provide their perspective on the **key issues** which affect heritage educators. All delegates attend these formal keynote sessions which are followed by questions and answers. Each keynote session is chaired by a GEM trustee.
- **Breakouts:** These sessions are usually run by **experienced heritage educators** who provide an **analysis** and **overview** of aspects of the conference theme. Delegates usually have a choice of three breakout sessions to attend. These sessions are less formal and smaller in size than the keynotes (up to about 40 delegates in each). Although there will probably be a short presentation it is expected that the delegates will spend about half the time discussing and engaging with the breakout session topic either altogether or in smaller groups. Please note that the emphasis of the breakout sessions is taking an overview, analysing and drawing out generic lessons learned. The presentation of a single case study is unlikely to be suitable for a breakout session.
- **Workshops:** These sessions should be **hands-on**. Although the presenter may give a very short presentation (no more than about five minutes), the delegates for most of the session should be actively participating rather than sitting and listening (there should be no more than 25 delegates in a workshop – usually fewer). Each workshop should be relevant to the conference theme, and delegates should learn some practical skills. The workshops are usually run by **experienced practitioners** with particular skills that they wish to share with others.
- **Members:** This session consists of five ten-minute (very rigorously enforced!) **case study** presentations, which are presented by GEM members. These are an opportunity for delegates to get a quick and effective idea of what is happening at the chalk-face. They are also an opportunity for GEM members to present at conference for the first time. They may in later years enhance their own CPD by “moving up the ladder” by giving a workshop and then a breakout session, for example.

## 4.1 Session timings

We are looking for proposals for **breakout sessions, workshops** and **GEM member presentations** for this year's GEM conference. Most sessions will take place at the Lakeside Arts Centre in Nottingham. The workshops on Wednesday and Thursday may take place at a museum in the city centre. Both locations are within easy access of Nottingham Station, via walking distance and a tram ride.

### 4.1.1 Breakout Sessions

There will be nine different breakout sessions (each lasting 75 minutes), spread across the three days. (i.e. three taking place on each day):

- early afternoon (13.35 to 14.50) Tuesday 4 September 2018
- late morning (11.35 to 12.50) on Wednesday 5 September 2018
- late morning (11.35 to 12.50) on Thursday 6 September 2018

### 4.1.2 Workshop Sessions

There will be workshops on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon (14.10 to 16.30, with a 20-minute break in-between). **Each workshop will be repeated** to give delegates the chance to attend two of the workshops on offer in each session. This is obviously good for the delegates and a challenge for the presenters! Each workshop will be 60 minutes long and there will be a 20-minute break between showings. *Please note that the workshops may take place in a museum in the city centre.*

### 4.1.3 GEM Member Presentations

The member presentations are 10-minutes in length each and are scheduled to take place on Tuesday from 15.00 to 16.00 at the Lakeside Arts Centre. You have to be a GEM member, in order to present a member presentation, however, we welcome non-members to join at the same time as applying.

***Please note that all timings are provisional and are subject to change.***

## 5 HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Just follow these simple steps:

- Read this document – carefully!
- Think about the conference theme and about what you can offer.
- Fill in a proposal form and the session plan – please pay particular attention to the learning outcomes. (We expect the session plan to be no more than two sides of A4 in length.) Can be found on the GEM Conference 2018 event page.
- Send a completed proposal form to the GEM office at [conference@gem.org.uk](mailto:conference@gem.org.uk) by Tuesday 29 May 2018.

**We can offer the following speaker discounts on conference fees:**

- Breakout session leaders: 100% discount on the delegate fee for the day on which you will be presenting. *Or one third off the whole conference fee.*
- Workshop leaders: 100% discount on the delegate fee for the day on which you will be presenting. *Or one third off the whole conference fee.*

- GEM Member presentations: 50% discount on the delegate fee for the day on which you will be presenting. *Or one quarter off the whole conference fee.*
- To encourage, proposals from outside the UK as well as a 100% discount on the delegate day fee for the day on which you will be presenting, we can also offer a 50% discount on the other day fees of the conference.

**Please note:**

Breakout session and workshop leaders may bring along one co-presenter if agreed in advance, although we will require the co-presenter to book as a paying delegate to the conference on the day on which they will be presenting or would like to attend (and pay the appropriate fee). Please note that we are only able to extend the offer of a discount to the lead presenter.

GEM members pay reduced conference fees and can make further savings by booking for the whole conference and at the early bird rate. To find out more and how to book, please visit the GEM website.

## 6 HOW WILL GEM CHOOSE?

The GEM conference committee will carefully consider all applications and decide the final selection using the criteria below to create a balanced conference programme. The conference team hopes to be able to inform applicants of the committee’s decision by Monday 4 June 2018.

The conference committee will take into account the following:

- relevance to the conference theme (if a breakout or workshop)
- how well the proposal meets the session requirements as detailed in section 4
- the quality of the proposed session
- how new or novel is the content of the session
- how much of a CPD opportunity is this for the presenter
- how recently was the proposed topic aired at conference.

GEM considers that presenting at conference is a personal CPD opportunity. In the case of a “tie” the opportunity to present will be given to someone who has never presented at conference before, or to a GEM member who has presented less recently than another. And again, in the case of a “tie”, we will favour a GEM member to a non-member, although we welcome new members (and you can join at the same time as you apply!)

We expect that a GEM member may cut their teeth on a member presentation, get stuck into a workshop and work up to presenting a breakout session as their career develops.

## 7 PRACTICAL NOTES

Each breakout session is usually chaired by a GEM trustee or a GEM area convenor, and the session chair will liaise with the presenter and help them where possible. Workshop presenters will also have a conference “friend”.

We like to reproduce notes of the conference proceedings (these notes usually go in GEM’s annual JEM publication or on the website) and we will appreciate your help in producing these. Also, we like to include short biographies of presenters in the delegate packs:

- **Breakout session leaders:** 100-150 words
- **Workshop leaders:** 50-100 words

- **Member presenters:** 50-75 words

Our conference venues are usually very well equipped with presentation technology, although we do prefer to have copies of PowerPoint presentations, videos, DVDs, slides etc in advance to make sure that it will all work on the day. You will receive detailed information about the timetable for receipt of final session plans and copies of session material from the conference co-ordinator. We hope to make as many resources as possible from the conference available after the event on the website. So please provide us with all resources you are happy to share, and inform us if you do not wish your presentation/materials to be uploaded onto the website.

## **8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Conference Venue**

The venue for this year's conference is the Lakeside Arts Centre in Nottingham, some workshops may take place at a museum in the city centre. The Lakeside Arts Centre is about a 15-minute tram ride from Nottingham Station in the city centre.