

The Megaphone

Edition # 32 – Posted On-line June 9, 2009

meg·a·phone [meg-uh-fohn] –noun

1. a cone-shaped device for magnifying or directing the voice, chiefly used in addressing a large audience out of doors or in calling to someone at a distance.

www.dictionary.com

Hello everyone!

We have been telling you for the last few weeks about a major Arts, Culture and Heritage Research Symposium MAS' Project Coordinator, Jessica Leavens, has been planning for June 17 in Regina.

Even if you can't attend, there are ways you can be involved and share in this wealth of knowledge! Jessica tells us all about it, in this week's *Megaphone*.

Talk to you next week! – Lisa

Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone for your interest and support for our first Arts, Culture, and Heritage Research Symposium! We have sold out the event, but don't worry – we're making arrangements for everyone to be able to share in the great information we will be exchanging on June 17.

We are creating a post-symposium information package that will include proceedings, copies of presentations, and resource material for our members. Watch the website for information on the availability of this package before the end of June – current information on the symposium and updates will be posted at this link

http://www.saskmuseums.org/professional_development

The symposium promises to be a very full day of learning, sharing, networking, and good food! We are bringing together colleagues from arts, culture, and heritage organizations, governmental agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations, and hope the discussions you have will contribute to new projects and new partnerships.

What can we learn from this symposium, or the follow-up information package?

- We can expand our ideas of what research is and how it can be applied.
- We will learn about the interesting and relevant research that our colleagues are doing in different organizations.

- We will learn about new opportunities for networking and how to build bridges between organizations.
- We will learn about research partnerships and how they are innovative ways to share resources, gain funding, and develop ties with other organizations.
- We will learn from colleagues from arts, culture, and heritage organizations about the importance of involving communities in many different parts of our work (research, exhibit design, evaluating our programs).
- We will learn about ethical considerations and the importance of cultural awareness and sensitivity in research.
- We will hear about an ‘action research’ model in which participants are actively involved in the evaluation process – this can be used to effectively evaluate our programming.

How does research help us to be relevant to our communities?

By engaging in research, arts, culture, and heritage organizations contribute to the overall health and sustainability of their communities. Research helps to build community knowledge and pride. Research helps us to know what we, as an organization, are doing well – and where we need to improve.

And once you have the research – what do you do with it? Make it accessible to your staff, volunteers, community members, and on-line of course! This symposium is our way of encouraging all of us to share our knowledge with each other within our provincial arts, culture and heritage community and beyond!

Our symposium keynote speaker, panelists, and presenters are all knowledgeable professionals working in diverse fields (many from arts, culture, and heritage organizations). They have collaborated with community groups, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, government, and others. They bring a variety of experiences, knowledge, and skills to share with you, and we hope that you will be able to learn from each one.

Thanks to everyone who is contributing to making this day engaging, successful, and interesting - and keep an eye out for the post-symposium package! - *Jessica*