

UBC'S MASTER OF MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM

Educating Museum Educators

Dr. David Anderson and his team (Drs. Lisa McIntosh, Alex de Cosson and Jill Baird) lead the University of British Columbia's (UBC) **Master of Museum Education (MMEd)** degree program (<http://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/med5>). The program is unique in BC and Canada, and has made significant contributions to innovation, imagination and advancement of the museum field. The graduate program brings together museum educators, community-based educators and classroom teachers from across BC, Canada and the world to explore informal education and teaching and learning in museum settings.

The MMEd, inaugurated in 2010, is now recruiting for its sixth cohort. The program has over the past eight years contributed directly to the professional development of more than 75 career professionals, and indirectly to many partnering museums and organizations who help support, contribute to and benefit from the program's graduates.

As museum staffs contemplate new roles within society it is incumbent upon museum educators to become catalysts for different ways of thinking about a) the potential of museums, b) teaching and learning in museum settings, as well as

c) the relationships between museums and the broader community. It is these frontiers that the MMEd program has advanced over the past eight years and has established a track record of excellence through *leadership* and *education* of both current practicing and future museum educators.

The program has provided new opportunities for its graduates to obtain and extend the necessary skills and knowledge for careers as museum educators, locally and globally, and to support a diversity of educators in the community expanding their use of the museum as sites of learning.

The MMEd program is developing the next generation of museum educators and teachers.

The program is led and facilitated by museum professionals and academics with a depth of experiences in informal education and research. Since its inauguration, it has helped foster a critique of dominant and alternative theories and discourses of learning and teaching in informal settings as well as successfully

integrated both First Nations and international perspectives in understanding and developing learning experiences in/within museums and communities. The program has developed and extended ideas about learning opportunities in museums and other informal learning sites as well as produced research that enrich, extend, and innovate educational programs and exhibitions. All of these outcomes have had a strong influence on museum education practice from trans-institutional, interdisciplinary and multicultural perspectives.

These outcomes of the MMEd program speak loudly to educational impact that has benefited graduates as museum professionals and community educators and the museums and their staffs where they work and engage in BC and across the world. Numerous concrete examples of these impacts can be found in the recent edited book publication: [Research informing the practice of museum educators](#).



Project Organizers:

David Anderson is a professor at the University of British Columbia, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Canada. He is the Director of the Master of Museum Education (MMEd) degree program at UBC, and his academic work is situated in the fields of Museum Education and Science Education.

Lisa McIntosh is Director of Learning at the HR MacMillan Space Centre. She has been teaching in the Master of Museum Education program at UBC since its inception.

Alex de Cosson is an adjunct professor in art education with the Teacher Education Program at UBC and is a faculty member of the MMEd and MET Programs. His research is arts-based autobiographical ways of knowing and being.

Jill Baird is Curator of Education at UBC Museum of Anthropology. She works in cross-cultural education through collaborative programme development.

Photo: *Museum Educator at Vancouver Aquarium.*
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