



## **Request for Proposals: BCMA Community Partners and Conference Location**

Showcase your community's museums, galleries, arts, and heritage to cultural professionals from every corner of the province by hosting the BC Museums Association's Annual Conference. Each fall the BC Museums Association (BCMA) holds an internationally-recognized provincial conference in a British Columbia community, bringing together museum, heritage, arts, and cultural experts to learn, network, and explore innovation in the sector.

Host communities will have the opportunity to showcase the creative work of their museum, gallery, archive, heritage and related sectors, gaining great exposure with many of the province's leading cultural heritage experts.

### **Vision for Future BCMA Conference (2023, 2024, 2025)**

Over the next three years, the BCMA wishes to push the boundaries of what a conference is and how it engages the heritage community.

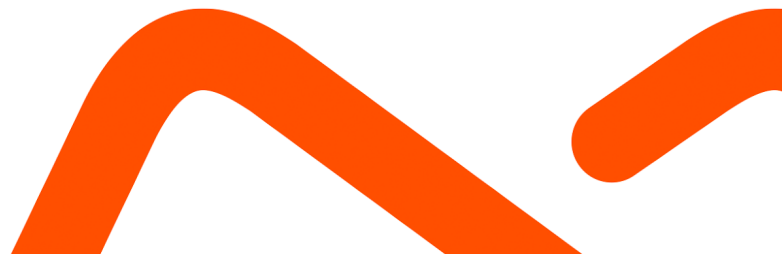
We are open to creative and innovative suggestions from the arts, culture, and heritage sector that range from traditional conference experiences that bring people together in large hotel spaces, to digital/hybrid conference experiences, to new strategic partnerships with peer organizations, to smaller workshops in more remote and diverse communities. Through our next three years of conferences, our goal is to experiment with new models, get feedback from members, and innovate our conference model to be more impactful, engaging, and accessible.

### **ASSOCIATION BACKGROUND**

The BCMA believes in the transformational power of museums. Founded in 1957, the BCMA creates a bright future for British Columbia's museums, galleries, and cultural heritage community through networking, advocacy, innovation, and professional development. It delivers programs and services to the benefit of its members and the sector at large, acting as the cultural and heritage information hub for British Columbia while providing a unified voice for the institutions, trustees, professional staff and volunteers.

The BCMA is a provincially incorporated society and a registered charitable organization.

### **EVENT DETAILS**



The BCMA's annual conference typically takes place in the fall and runs over two or three days. For the next three years, we anticipate anywhere between 150-300 in-person attendees and digital audiences of 200-300, representing cultural institutions from across BC - typically staff from small to large cultural institutions, students, and government partners. To reflect the Association's geographically diverse membership, we attempt to hold our conference in locations across different regions of the province every time.

## FUNCTION SPACE REQUIREMENTS

We encourage ideas for venue spaces that create room for greater community engagement and do not rely heavily on hotel meeting spaces.

When meetings take place in multiple venues, walking distance and venue accessibility should be considered along with weather patterns in the fall. Although some events can take place in a hotel venue, BCMA conference delegates prefer unique spaces within, for example, museums, galleries, and heritage sites. The BCMA team will work with host communities to tailor our program to the location and available space.

Typical venues offer:

- lobby, foyer or pre-function space for delegate registration
- dining area/community space for breaks and networking
- storage space for the organizing team
- one event space with the capacity to hold all delegates
- one to several smaller meeting rooms

A reliable, wired high-speed internet connection for live-streaming the event to virtual attendees would be preferable.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please get in touch with us via email at [bcma@museum.bc.ca](mailto:bcma@museum.bc.ca) to submit an expression of interest by December 15, 2023.

We will get back to you to set up a time to discuss all the details but you can help us by providing as much information as you have available in your initial email.

- Your contact information (name, email, phone, your organization)
- Brief background on the host community (1-2 sentences)
- Other cultural institutions in your community and your community partners (i.e. library, community centre, First Nations band, Indigenous organizations, local tourism bureau)
- Some information on accommodation options and hotels in your community
- What dates are (un)available between September and November
- Why you would like to host a BCMA Conference

## PAST CONFERENCE HOST COMMUNITIES

2007 Richmond

2008 Victoria

2009 Osoyoos

2010 Nanaimo

2011 Vancouver - Museum of Vancouver

2012 Kamloops

2013 Parksville

2014 Penticton

2015 New Westminster

2016 Whistler

2017 Victoria

2018 Kelowna

2019 Prince George

2020 Fully Virtual

2021 Virtual - presented by the City of Surrey

2022 Virtual in May and In-person in Greater Victoria in November