



2019 SICC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Workshop 1
Tanis Hill, Heather George & Mary Collier

Title: The Space In Between: A Collaboration for Change

Presenters: Tanis Hill, Heather George & Mary Collier

Biography: Tanis Hill is a member of the Mohawk nation, turtle clan, born and raised at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ontario. She obtained an Honours Bachelor of Commerce with a specialization in Accounting at the University of Ottawa and recently completed the two-year Ogwehoweh Language Diploma Program in Mohawk at Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP). For twenty years, she held the position as Finance Manager at SNP and also as the Programs and Services Manager for several years. Since March 2014, she has been the Assistant Project Coordinator at Deyohahá:ge.

Biography: Heather George is a Mohawk / Euro-Canadian scholar and mom. A second year PhD student in the department of History at the University of Waterloo, her research focuses on the history of Haudenosaunee led museum practices and the relationship between heritage preservation and the healing of historic trauma. She holds a M.A. in Public History from Western, a B.A. Honours in History and Native Studies from Trent University and an OCGD in Museum Management and Curatorship from Fleming College.

Biography: Mary Collier is a longtime museum lover and has been lucky enough to work in and with museums and museum associations in Alberta and Ontario since 2005. She is currently the Professional Development Program Manager with the Ontario Museum Association.

Abstract: In 2017, Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Woodland Cultural Centre, University of Toronto and the Ontario Museum Association partnered to plan and deliver the Indigenous Collections Symposium. Held in Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, the symposium brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural practitioners to discuss “promising practices, challenging issues, and changing the system.” The gathering, held over 20 years after the release of the Task Force Report on Museums and First Peoples, was a renewal of a commitment to build better understanding and communication between cultural organizations and source communities in Ontario. The gathering considered the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and debates arising from Canada’s 150th anniversary with discussions centering around care and interpretation of Indigenous collections, particularly those held in trust by non-Indigenous organizations. From the start, a key strength in the project was building on existing relationships and informal networks. This presentation will discuss how the project developed, what each partner was able to bring to the table, the types of grants that funded the gathering, and key topics and findings from the symposium. As well, we will share participant feedback to help frame a discussion of next steps in collaborating for change.

Learning Objectives: Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of working within the Deyohahá:ge: two roads approach (based on the teachings of the Two Row Wampum);
- Learn about a review of contemporary and historical context of the relationship between non-Indigenous cultural organizations and Indigenous communities; and,
- Learn what partnersto bring to the table (including access to funding opportunities and logistical and administrative capacity).