

The Museum Group

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14th Annual Conversations • Houston, 2011

The Museum Group continues the tradition of hosting **Conversations** at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. You are invited to join your colleagues in Conversation

Monday and Tuesday, May 23 and 24
at the Hilton Americas-Houston,
adjacent to the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The MUSEUM Group • Individual Expertise • Collective Wisdom

*House, Houston, 1943
Photo by John Vachon*



Conversation Topics and Museum Group Hosts

Monday, May 23

12:15–1:45 p.m.

The Challenges—Real And Imagined—Of Working Across The Globe

Hosts: Leslie Bedford, Deborah Mack and Jane Clark Chermayeff

The variety of places and kinds of work North American museum professionals are now doing around the globe is extraordinary and raises many questions. Does “museum” mean the same thing in Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, Khmer or Bamum? How has the colonial past shaped the cultural landscape? What are the emerging challenges? How can we be effective partners? This conversation will help clarify our thinking as we seek to be genuinely global thinkers and doers.

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

The Other Side Of The Fence

Hosts: Elaine Heumann Gurian and Jim Volkert

What do other countries and other cultures value about working with North American museum professionals? What are the challenges from their perspectives? Listen as TMG members who travel the globe share their views.

Tuesday, May 24

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Can Museums Help? What Japan’s Nuclear Crisis Provokes Us To Consider

Hosts: Alan Friedman and David Ellis

How can museums help society with crises? What role can museums play in presenting complex and controversial issues and information to the public? For this discussion, we will look at both slow crises such as global climate change and loss of biological diversity and fast crises such as nuclear meltdowns, oil spills and epidemics.

