

AICCM National Conference Theme

Collaborate | Connect | Conserve

Collaborate, Connect, Conserve for the 2017 AICCM National Conference. We are looking to explore the roles that conservators and related groups play in collaborative efforts to conserve our cultural heritage. We want you to share your stories about the effective ways conservators connect with the wider world. Tell us when collaboration and connection has had an influence in your conservation project and its outcomes. In 2017 the AICCM wants to include a range of presentation formats, so the conference will include conference papers, lightning talks and panel discussions, and we strongly encourage students to present.

Collaborate – When conservators join forces with allied professionals, artists and traditional trades, we gain access to expertise and skill sets that are simply available to conservators alone. Breaking established professional boundaries and working innovatively with other groups can lead to better conservation outcomes.

- When working towards a common conservation goal, what roles do conservators play and what roles do allied professionals play?
- When have you worked in a collaborative team made up of members with various professional backgrounds?
- What does a successful relationship between conservation and allied professions look like?
- When do traditional trades and when do conservators have a role to play in the treatment of cultural material?
- Do blurred professional boundaries need to be policed and if so, then how?

Connect – Communicating the need for conservation to the public, a client base and within institutions is vital for the health of the profession. Changing levels of government funding and economic activity means that the effort and expense of conservation needs to be justified now more than ever. New and innovative forms of communication are changing the reach that the conservation profession can have.

- What is the needed for conservation advocacy?
- What is our message, who is our audience and how do we get heard?
- When has your communication made a connection and when has it missed the mark?
- How have modern means of communication changed the way we connect with the public, spark interest in our cause and gain the support of the community?
- Have you presented conservation to the public in a novel way?

Conserve – The opportunity to collaborate and to make connections with those from outside of conservation is found in all conservation projects. This is especially true for projects that are large, complex and technical in nature. Some projects have special demands that require diverse teams of specialists and hence need consideration given to communication, project management and logistics.

- What opportunities did you find to collaborate and connect in your conservation project?
- How did this change the conservation outcomes you were able to achieve?
- What role does a conservator play in large, complex and technical projects?
- When have you applied scientific and technical research and expertise to the field of conservation?
- How have you benefited from community involvement and working with volunteers?