



SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Fellowship Program | 2018–2020

Program overview

The Rob and Melani Walton *Sustainability in Science and Technology Museums* initiative supports museums and similar cultural organizations in developing and expanding sustainability programming through professional development opportunities, public educational materials, and other resources. By leveraging the power of organizations around the world, this program has the potential to help millions of people to understand the social, environmental, and economic impact of human behavior on the planet's future. More information: <http://www.nisenet.org/sustainability>

The Sustainability Fellowship program provides professional development and support for staff who are interested in developing sustainability-related projects at their organizations. Projects can include public programming, events, installations, or exhibits; professional development for museum staff and volunteers; behind-the-scenes efforts to make museum operations more sustainable; partnerships with other community organizations related to sustainability initiatives; and/or initial planning that will create a foundation for future sustainability efforts at your museum.

Program activities and requirements

Sustainability Fellows are required to:

- Attend a two-day in-person workshop held in Tempe, Arizona, near the Arizona State University campus;
- Participate in three 60-90 minute online workshops, one held prior to the in-person meeting and two held afterwards;
- Develop a sustainability project that will engage the public in learning about sustainability, make museum operations more sustainable, provide staff and volunteer professional development related to sustainability, develop community partnerships for sustainability, and/or plan future sustainability initiatives;

- Receive US\$1,000 in participant support, which can help cover staff time, materials, or other expenses; and
- Submit an online report describing your project and sharing their experience with the Fellowship Program

In addition, you are requested to participate in the program evaluation:

- Complete a brief, anonymous online evaluation survey.

Examples of projects

This program allows Fellows to work with peers, experts, and stakeholders at their institution to identify an idea that is feasible and desirable for their organization.

Previous Sustainability Fellows have implemented a range of different projects, which have varied according to their institution's priorities, capacity, and degree of previous experience with sustainability:

- A children's museum created a pollinator garden outside their building and museum visitors collected data at the garden to contribute to a citizen science project
- A science center integrated sustainability related content into summer camp programs
- A science and technology museum incorporated some new sustainability ideas and principles into an upcoming special exhibition
- A cultural center developed a cultural tourism program highlighting local gastronomy and natural environment of a rural mountain area
- A garden offered a family tour focused on the diversity of endemic and native plants, as well as art activities using plant materials
- A natural history museum provided staff professional development so that different departments could contribute to a museum-wide sustainability initiative
- A science center partnered with other organizations to advance energy sustainability and reduce the polarity in public dialogue
- A zoo looked at how they handle recycling and reuse of materials behind the scenes and found low-cost ways to improve the process
- A science museum examined how they create new exhibits and retire old ones and developed guidelines to make their exhibit life cycle more sustainable

Timeline

Cohort A

Workshop activities:

- Flight bookings through ASU travel agent: week of August 12, 2019
- Online session #1: August 16 or 19, 2019
- Travel to Arizona: September 9 (international) or September 10, 2019 (US)
- Group dinner: September 10, 2019

- Day 1 of workshop: September 11, 2019
- Day 2 of workshop: September 12, 2019
- Travel home: September 13, 2019
- Online session #2: October 18 or 21, 2019
- Online session #3: December 6 or 9, 2019

Project work:

- September 2019 - January, 2020

Reporting and evaluation:

- Final report due: January 6, 2020
- Evaluation survey link provided: January 6, 2020

Cohort B

Workshop activities:

- Flight bookings through ASU travel agent: by early December, 2019
- Online session #1: January 3 or 6, 2020 (your choice)
- Travel to Arizona: January 20 (international) or January 21, 2020 (US)
- Group dinner: January 21, 2020
- Day 1 of workshop: January 22, 2020
- Day 2 of workshop: January 23, 2020
- Travel home: January 24, 2020
- Online session #2: February 21 or 24, 2020
- Online session #3: April 17 or 20, 2020

Project work:

- January - May, 2020

Reporting and evaluation:

- Final report due: May 18, 2020
- Evaluation survey link provided: May 18, 2020

Cohort C

Workshop activities:

- Flight bookings through ASU travel agent: by mid April, 2020
- Online session #1: April 17 or 20, 2020
- Travel to Arizona: May 18 (international) or May 19, 2020 (US)
- Group dinner: May 19, 2020
- Day 1 of workshop: May 20, 2020
- Day 2 of workshop: May 21, 2020

- Travel home: May 22, 2020
- Online session #2: June 19 or 22, 2020
- Online session #3: August 21 or 24, 2020

Project work:

- May - September, 2020

Reporting and evaluation:

- Final report due: September 8, 2020
- Evaluation survey link provided: September 8, 2020

Program activities

Advance preparation

During this phase of work, Fellows will get to know each other, learn some basics about sustainability and the Fellowship program, and do some advance preparation for the in-person workshop. This phase of work takes place online with your cohort of Fellows, and with colleagues at your own organization.

Prior to attending the in-person workshop, each Fellow should do the following:

- Attend a one-hour online orientation workshop; and
- Do the advance preparation work, including watching two brief videos and completing a brainstorming activity.

Workshop

The in-person workshop will be held in Tempe, Arizona (near Phoenix). During the workshop, each Fellow will develop at least one possible ideas for a sustainability project to do at their home museum. You do not have to commit to a specific idea during the workshop, but you should develop at least one strong, feasible idea and have some specific next steps to take when you return home.

Major activities during the meeting include:

- Becoming familiar with the activities and expectations of the program;
- Establishing relationships with other Fellows in the cohort;
- Reviewing relevant prior work, including key concepts in sustainability science and education, effective practices related to informal education, and available tools and resources;
- Developing possible project ideas in collaboration with other Fellows, with an emphasis on coming up with innovative and exciting ideas that will engage participants in thinking about sustainable futures and developing a sense of efficacy and optimism;
- Outlining a plan for next steps.

Project work

During the final phase of the program, each Fellow will work on a project at their home museum and report on their work. There are very few constraints on the project. We ask that it be consistent with the program goals described above and will help you develop a project that aligns with your program's mission, priorities, and work to date related to sustainability. Projects may include planning efforts, programming, or elements of larger initiatives. You do not necessarily need to complete your entire project during this time frame, but you should make demonstrable progress.

The program will provide \$1,000 in participant support. These funds are not intended to cover the entire cost of a project, but rather to help defray expenses. It is the responsibility of each Fellow to determine what is feasible for their organization within the time frame and budget.

Major activities during this phase of work include:

- **Plan, develop, and/or implement your project** with others at your museum (and/or in your community).
- **Share your progress and get feedback** from your cohort of Fellows in an online working session.
- **Share progress/results, and lessons learned from** your project with your cohort of Fellows.
- **Complete a brief online report** that describes what you did for your project, who participated in it, how many people participated, and what you think the most important outcomes were. You will also need to upload at least three images of your project. The deadline for the report is approximately four months after your in-person workshop. You will receive a template for the report in advance.
- **Complete an optional online survey** that will help us to understand the program's strengths and areas for improvement. The deadline for the survey is approximately four months after your in-person workshop.

Contact information

If you have additional questions, please contact Bethany Lang: Bethany.Lang@asu.edu

Acknowledgements

The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation is the lead sponsor of the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability in Science and Technology Museums program at Arizona State University.