

# JOIN US!

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# THE COALITION TO ADVANCE LEARNING IN ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

## LEARNING BETTER TOGETHER

The Coalition to Advance Learning aligns around a common purpose—to work in deliberate coordination across boundaries to advance sustainable continuing education and professional development (CE/PD) programs that will transform our profession and strengthen a nation of learners.



**OUR NATION'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON AN INFORMED CITIZENRY**, in a world where knowledge is power, and at a time when information technologies and practices are changing at an extraordinary rate. The staff of archives, libraries, and museums serve as essential guides for researchers, scholars, professionals, and people of all ages, backgrounds, experience, and disciplines. Just as our profession faces intense pressure to stay up to date with the needs of users, the institutions we work in are under increasing financial pressure. With insufficient resources to conduct business as usual, bold new approaches are needed. To that end, the Coalition has established the following goals as a joint strategy to carry our workforce forward:



# GOALS

## **BUILD COMMUNITY AND CAPACITY.**

The Coalition has established an open community of practice to support the three sectors of our profession to come together to learn, identify shared interests, and collaborate. With founding Coalition members at the forefront, new interagency and cross-sector relationships are being forged that will expand our collective knowledge and resources, and move us toward shared CE/PD goals. The community of practice will continue to grow as a network of individuals and organizations who contribute and gain knowledge, information, and ideas that will advance and sustain learning.

## **ADVOCATE FOR ONGOING INVESTMENT.**

The Coalition believes it is crucial to champion the importance of continuing education and professional development. Our goal is to ensure that learning is viewed by decision makers as a vital component of a successful organization; and that archives, library, and museum staff have access to timely, high-quality learning opportunities. To raise awareness and support outreach, new language and tools are being formulated to make a strong case for support, and the Coalition is demonstrating how organizations can work together to coordinate both broad-based and targeted outreach through its website, social media, and conference outreach channels.

## **INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF CURRENT OFFERINGS AND EMERGING NEEDS.**

Supported by an IMLS grant, Coalition members are leading an assessment of continuing education and professional development needs in and across our profession. The project is assessing the viability of cross-sector collaborations on particular topics, identifying shared challenges and common competencies. The project will lead to increased visibility and greater awareness of needs across archives, libraries, and museums, which can be used to surface existing offerings and establish priorities for creating new learning opportunities to meet the collective needs of the field.

# TAKE ACTION TOGETHER

Building on the foundation established by this joint strategy, the Coalition is exploring and prototyping how multiple organizations representing multiple sectors of our profession can work together in new ways that benefit learners and have sufficient return on investment for CE/PD providers. Following a successful pilot webinar series on project management that gathered staff of archives, libraries, and museums across the nation for a shared learning experience, the Coalition proposes to develop more learning opportunities on entry-level topics of mutual interest across our profession. Coalition members are also currently devising plans for a conference exchange program, residency program, panel presentations, and identifying cross-marketing opportunities.

Our vision is for a rich variety of sustainable and effective learning opportunities that address needs across the three sectors and strengthen our nation of learners.



## **THE COALITION CHAMPIONS A COLLABORATIVE CROSS-SECTOR APPROACH TO LEARNING.**

Several imperatives drive this approach:

### **WE NEED TO BREAK DOWN DISCIPLINE-BASED SILOS.**

Members of the public demand easy, barrier-free access to the information and experiences they seek, without regard to institutional or disciplinary divisions. This calls for our profession to think of users and user communities holistically, and prepare our workforce to work across boundaries to meet user needs.

### **EACH DISCIPLINE BRINGS UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND ANSWERS TO COMMON CHALLENGES.**

While we can learn much from one another, there is even greater potential in what we can create together. By leveraging both our similarities and our differences, we will generate creative and effective solutions we could not reach by acting in isolation.

### **IT IS IN OUR COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC INTEREST.**

Through collaboration and resource sharing, we can accomplish more than we can acting independently. By collaborating where we share interests, resources are freed up to focus on our areas of specialization. It allows for the creation of larger, more transparent markets for continuing education and professional development offerings, expanding the market for providers, and allowing both providers and consumers to do more with limited resources.