

MUSEUM STUDIES MUSEUMS AT NOON

Please join us for a **Museums at Noon** presentation!

Speakers: Christina DiFabio (PhD candidate, Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art & Archaeology)
Shannon Ness (PhD candidate, Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art & Archaeology)

When: 12:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021

Where: Online via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 910 0130 8478 / Passcode: 617448)

Interdisciplinary Partnerships and Community Collaborations in Museum Practice

Interdisciplinary College and Professional Learning at the Art Institute of Chicago (Christina DiFabio)



This presentation will discuss how a major art museum in the U.S. engages college and professional groups within various disciplines. During the winter of 2019, I worked in the Adult Learning Division in the Department of Learning and Public Engagement at the Art Institute of Chicago. In my practicum, I saw how the division initiates and maintains partnerships with art students at the School of the Art Institute and medical students at University of Illinois Chicago and Rush University. I will discuss how the division approaches art education with these different audiences as well as my own research which proposed how to broaden the medical school partnership to other professions, such as social work. My work was an initial step in a larger project that is being undertaken by the division to create a wellness program for interdisciplinary students and professionals.

Community Participation and Consultation: Developing a Heritage Center at El Kurru, Sudan (Shannon Ness)



The modern village of El Kurru is one locale within the larger UNESCO World Heritage Site of “Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region” and gives its name to the ancient royal cemetery located there. Although the well-preserved and painted burial chambers attract domestic and international tourists, there is no site presentation — a detriment to both visitors and residents. As part of a new site management plan, El Kurru will soon be home to the El Kurru Community Heritage Center, which strives to be a resource for both visitors and residents alike. The International Kurru Archaeological Project (IKAP) in partnership with Sudanese archaeologists and local stakeholders are preparing programming and the exhibitions on the site’s archaeology and the local culture of El Kurru.

This talk will discuss the development of an educational outreach program and the curation of the local heritage exhibit, which will feature photographs, objects, and stories sourced from the local community. While there is general interest in what the Center could be and IKAP has been successful in encouraging participation in the development process, the talk will also address some of the challenges in moving beyond mere participation and consultation in the effort to foster true collaboration between various stakeholders.