

**MUSEUM EDUCATORS
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(M.E.S.C)**

**MEMBERSHIP
PROFILE
QUESTIONNAIRE
2001**

Executive Summary

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June 1, 2001*

**Museum Educators of Southern California (M.E.S.C.)
MEMBERSHIP PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE**

2001

SURVEY RESULTS

Executive Summary

Introduction: Surveys, with self-addressed stamped return envelopes, were sent to 365 MESC members on April 1, 2001. Surveys were to be returned by April 20, 2001. The first survey arrived April 4, 2001. 150 surveys were considered in this summary.

(Percentages given below are based on those who chose to respond to the corresponding questions)

SECTION 1: Member Profile

- 89% are PROFESSIONALS (See 1:1)
- 78% are in their professional occupation FULL TIME (See 1:2)
- 49% list MUSEUM EDUCATOR as their current position, while 15% listed OTHER, 9% listed MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR and 9% listed EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR (See 1:3)
- 49% have been in the field for 1 TO 5 YEARS, and 42% have been in the field for 6 TO 10 YEARS (See 1:5)
- 65.5% have been in their current position 1 TO 5 YEARS, and 12.68% have been in their current position 6 – 10 YEARS (See 1:6)
- 51% work in PUBLIC institutions and 33% work in PRIVATE institutions (See 1:7)
- Annual salary for FULL TIME workers ranges from \$3,000. TO \$100,000 (See 1:8)
- 46% hold MASTERS DEGREES, 41% hold BACHELORS DEGREES, and 2.7% hold DOCTORATE DEGREES (See 1:9)
- **Optional:** 93% of Respondents were women, average age is 40, and 71% listed their ethnicity as CAUCASIAN (See 1:10)

SECTION 2: Institutional Data

- 30% reported ART as the discipline or focus of the museum, and about the same percentage of Respondents reported HISTORY (17%) as did for CULTURAL (16%) (See 2:1)
- AVERAGE number of EDUCATION STAFF was calculated at 13.5 with a ZERO MINIMUM and 200 MAXIMUM (See 2:2)
- 35% responded to the question of the MUSEUM'S ANNUAL BUDGET. Ranges indicated were from \$90,000. TO \$35,000,000. (See 2:3)

SECTION 3: MESC Membership Data

- About the same percentage of Respondents have INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS (52%) as have INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (48%) (See 3:1)
- 67% have BELONGED TO MESC for FIVE YEARS OR LESS (See 3:2)
- 66% of MEMBERSHIPS are PAID by the INSTITUTION (See 3:3)
- 70% have their own copy of Edline (See 3:4)

SECTION 4: MESC Meetings and Fees

- The BEST DAYS for meetings are MONDAYS (See 4:1)
- The BEST TIME OF DAY for meetings is MORNING (See 4:2)
- 84% preferred HALF-DAY as the PREFERRED PROGRAM LENGTH (See 4:3)
- 35% were willing to TRAVEL UP TO 25 MILES for a meeting (See 4:4)
- 64% of Respondents preferred PROGRAM REGISTRATION FEE INCREASES (See 4:5)

SECTION 5: MESC Programming

- Topics that received the highest ratings were (See 5:1):
 1. Audience Development
 2. Evaluation - Audience, Program, Exhibits
 3. Interpretive Materials - Curriculum, Gallery, Label Writing, Electronic Formats
 4. Partnerships
 5. Programming – Current Research Museum Education, Age-Specific Programs, Current Research in Education
 6. Training/Staff Development – Practical Teaching Strategies, Docent Training
- 14 Respondents listed AREAS OF INTEREST or INDIVIDUALS TO ADDRESS (See 5:2)
- The same number of Respondents had ATTENDED THE 2000 TEACHING SEMINAR as had not attended either seminar (See 5:3)
- The primary reason for not attending a TWO-DAY SEMINAR was COULD NOT SPEND TIME AWAY FROM their institution (38%) (See 5:4)
- MANAGEMENT SEMINAR TOPICS of greatest interest are LONG-RANGE OR STRATEGIC PLANNING (21%) and COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND STYLES (20%) (See 5:5)

SECTION 6: Comments

□ 27 out of 150 Respondents (18%) made ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (See 6)

Museum Educators of Southern California (MESC)

Membership Profile Questionnaire

TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEYS MAILED: 365
 TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEYS RETURNED: 150

SECTION 1: Member Profile

1. What is your primary level of occupation?

Response	Count	Percent
Professional	138	89.03
Student	7	4.51
Intern	0	0
Volunteer	7	4.51
*Other	3	1.93
TOTAL	155	99.98

2. How many hours do you work at this occupation?

Response	Count
Full-time	111
Part-time	31
Specific number hours per week: 30, 20-25, 30, 20, 24, 45, 50, 10-15, 4-10, 6, 30, 5, 2-8, 35	

3. Which term best describes your current position:

Response	Count	Percent
Museum Educator	73	49
Docent	05	3
Curator	07	5
Museum Administrator	14	9
Elementary Teacher	05	3
Secondary Teacher	02	1
Higher Education Teacher	04	3
Education Administrator	14	9
Librarian	03	2
Consultant	08	5
*Other	23	15
TOTAL	152	

NOTE:
 [Some respondents listed more than one position]

*Other responses

Response
Assistant to the Director
Non-profit Art & Education Administrator
Vice-President
Grad Student
Assistant/Coordinator
Museum Director
Non-profit Arts Org Executive Director
Arts Administrator
Docent Coordinator – Tours
Volunteer Manager
Historical Impersonator & Site Interpreter
Membership, Group Sales, Tourism Director
Director
Director of Non-profit arts education organization
Exhibits/Education
Director, Exhibitions, Public Programs & Education
Gallery Administrator
Community Arts Administration
Freelance Writer
Exhibits Coordinator
Youth & Family Programs Educator & Consultant
Cultural Programs Coordinator at a Public Library
Traveling Visual Arts Teacher & LACMA Volunteer
Museum Service Council
Inactive Independent Arts Educator

4. What is your official professional title?

Acting Director of Education
 Administrator George C. Page Museum
 Art 2Go Coordinator
 Art History Instructor
 Art Specialist
 Assistant Curator of Education
 Assistant Director
 Assistant Director of Art Education
 Assistant to the Director
 Assistant to the Executive Director
 Associate Curator
 Associate Curator of Education
 Associate Executive Director
 Associate Professor
 Botanical Education Specialist

Docent Chairwoman
 Docent Provisional Trainer
 Education Asst, Tour Program Mgr
 Education Associate - 2
 Education Coordinator – 3
 Education Director - 3
 Education & Outreach Coordinator
 Education & Program Manager
 Education/Program Director
 Educational Programs Manager
 Education Specialist - 2
 Environmental Educator
 Events & Program Coordinator
 Executive Director – 3
 Exec Dir Research/Sr. Consultant

Consultant – 2

Coord of Family and Community Programs
 Coord of Museum Education & Principal of a
 Charter School on Museum Grounds
 Cultural Programs Coord at a Public Library
 Curator of Education – 5
 Curator of Education & Volunteer Services
 Curator of History & Education

Curator/Supervisor

Curriculum Consultant

Department Head Natural Science Education

Deputy Director

Director – 3

Director, Exhibitions, Public Prog & Educ

Director of Education – 6

Director of Education & Public Programs

Director of Educational Programs

Director of Outreach Programs

Director of Professional Development

Director of School Programs

Director of "The Ethnic Experience"

Exhib Education & Eval Specialist

Exhibition Specialist

Exhibits Coordinator

Family Programs Coordinator

Freelance Writer

Gallery Director - 2

Gallery Educator

Hist Impressionist & Ongrounds-
 Entertainment

Instructor Art Historian

Lecturer, Art Education

Magnet Coordinator

Manager

Manager School Programs

Manager of Volunteer Programs

Museum Curator

Museum Education Consultant - 2

Museum Educ Program Manager

5. Total number of years in this field:

# of Years	Count
Less than 1	01
1 – 5	49
6 – 10	42
11 - 15	20
16 - 20	19
21- 25	05
25 - 42	09
TOTAL	139

6. Number of years in current position:

Response	Count	Percent
Less than 1	14	9.85
1 - 5	93	65.5
6 - 10	18	12.68
11 - 15	14	9.85
16 - 20	01	.704
21- 25	02	1.41
25 +	0	0
TOTAL	142	99.994

7. At what kind of institution do you work?

Response	Count	Percent
Public	74	51.03
Private	48	33.10
Public & Private	6	4.14
Other		
Non-profit	9	6.21
Freelance	2	1.38
Newspaper/Magazine	1	.69
Self	2	1.38
Owned by Municipality	1	.69
Managed by non-profit		
Museum	1	.69
NFP Community Arts	1	.69
TOTAL	145	

8. What is your annual salary?

Non-paid – 7

Of the paid respondents:

Annual Salary	
Average	38,000.
Median	35,000
Min	3,000.
Max	100,000.
Count	119

9. What is your educational background?

Response	Count
AA	4
BA or BS	76
MA or MS	86
Doctorate	5
In Progress	13
Other	1
Total	185

Response	Count
Art Education	1
Arts Education	1
Art History	14

Results - continued

Art History/Museum Studies	1
Art History & Business Economics	1
Art History & Studio Arts	1
Biology	5
Biology/Ecology	1
Child Development	2
Dance & Dramatic Arts	1
Education	1
Education & Art	1
Education & Political Science	1
Education/Speech Pathology	1
Fine Arts	2
History	7
Human Services	1
Anthropology	4
Anthropology - Zoology	1
Cultural Anthropology	1
Elementary Education	1
English	3
English and French	1
Environmental Studies	1
Arts/Behavioral Psychology	1
Literature/Language Arts	1
Music	1
Nursing	1
Studio Art	1
Studio Painting/Printmaking	1
Political Science	2
Political Science & Italian	1
Psychology	3
Liberal Studies	1
Recreation Administration	1
Spanish	1
Theatre	1
World Arts & Cultures	1
Total	71

MA or MS	
Media Arts	1
Museology	1
Museum Education	2
Museum Education/Ed. Admin	1
Museum Studies Certificate	1
Museum Studies	7
Education	14
Education & Library Science	1

Results - continued

Elementary Education	1
Biology	1
Communications	1
English	1
English Education	1
English Literature	1
Environmental Education	1
Fine Arts	3
Human Development	1
Art	2
Art/Arch. History	1
Art Design	1
Art Education	4
History (Museum Studies)	1
Art History	7
Art History/Art Education	1
Art History/Museum Studies	4
Art History/Museum Education	1
Art History/Theatre Arts	1
Geography	1
History	1
Anthropology	3
Leadership in Museum Education	1
Library & Info Science	1
Printmaking	1
Public Administration	1
Public Art Studies	1
Science Education	1
Science Teaching	1
Studio Art	1
Theatre	2
Total	77

Other
Nursing Diploma

Doctorate
Art General Studies
Education & Research
J.D.

Other in Progress
Anthropology
Almost ABD
Bachelor's in Math
Ph.D. in Science Education
Ph.D.
M.S. in Architecture
Master's in Art Education
Ph.D. in Education
Candidate Ph.D. in Art Education
Teaching Credential
Museum Education
MS Ed (Educ. Psychology)
Ed D Science Education

10. Optional: Gender, Age, Ethnicity

Gender	Count
Female	86
Male	6
Total	92

Age	
Avg	40.94
Min	23
Max	71
Median	40
Count	90

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
African American	2	2.38
Anglo	0	0
Asian American	5	5.95
Caucasian	60	71.4
Caucasian/Greek	1	1.19
Chicano/Mexican American	2	2.38
Eurasian	0	0
European American	3	3.57
Filipino	1	1.19
Hispanic	1	1.19
Jewish	1	1.19
Korean	0	0
Latino	3	3.57
Mixed	3	3.57
Puerto Rican	1	1.19
Spaniard	1	1.19
Total	84	99.96

SECTION 2: Institutional Data**1. What is the discipline or focus of your museum?**

Response	Count	Percent
Arboretum, Nature Center, Aquarium or Zoo	18	10.34
Art (Art, Crafts, Decorative Arts, etc)	52	29.88
Children's Museum	12	6.90
College or University Museum	3	1.72
Company	0	0
Cultural	29	16.66
History, Historic House, or Historic Site	30	17.24
Natural History	13	7.47
Science/Technology	4	2.30
Other (describe):	13	7.47
Nature hikes, tidepools; Botanical Garden-2; Art/Art History; Not a Museum; Not a Museum (Media)-2; Ethnic Specific; Automotive; Anthropology; Performing Arts-2; Creativity; Day job at theme park outside work at site, ie. School, library; Holocaust; Wildlife & Botanical Park; Gems, Minerals & Jewelry; Contemporary Art; Marine Life; Visual & Performing Arts Center.		
TOTAL	174	

2. Number of education staff:

Number of education staff	
Average	13.52
Median	6
Min	0
Max	200
Count	118

3. Museum's annual budget:

Annual Budget	
Average	~6,191,000
Median	1,850,000
Min	90,000
Max	35,000,000
Count	53

SECTION 3: MESC Membership Data

1. What kind of MESC membership do you have?

Response	Count
Individual	71
Institutional	77
Total	148

2. For how many years have you belonged to MESC?

Years	Count	Percent
0 – 5	86	67.18
6 – 10	29	22.66
11 – 15	10	7.81
16 – 20	3	2.34
21 +	0	0
Total	128	99.99

3. How is your membership paid?

Response	Count
Self	51
Museum or Institution	100
Total	151

4. If you are an institutional member, how do you find out about MESC programs and EDLine news (the MESC newsletter)?

Response	Count
My own copy	70
Shared copy	16
Posted copy	6
Other (describe):	7
Total	99

SECTION 4: MESC Meetings and Fees

1. Which is the best day of the week for you to attend MESC programs?

Response	Count
Monday	58
Tuesday	22
Wednesday	25
Thursday	26
Friday	39
Saturday	19
Sunday	6
Any day	12

[Some respondents marked more than one day]

[Any Day includes those that marked every day]

2. Which is the best time of day for programs?

Response	Count
Morning	96
Afternoon	25
Evening	5
Morning or Afternoon	9
Afternoon or Evening	5
Morning or Evening	2
Any Day	2

3. What program length to you prefer?

Response	Count
Half-day	120
Full-day	14
Both	7
No preference	2

4. How far are you willing to travel one-way to attend a meeting?

(Current Membership reaches from Santa Barbara to San Diego)

Response	Count	Percent
Up to 10 Miles	11	7.53
Up to 25 miles	52	35.62
Up to 50 miles	48	32.88
Up to 100 miles	17	11.64
Any Distance	18	12.33

5. If MESC fees had to increase, which option would you prefer?

Response	Count
Membership fee increase	50
Program registration fee increase	90

SECTION 5: MESC Programming

1. These topics were gleaned from member feedback. Please rate your level of interest from 1 – 5. (5 represents the most interest).

Development/Fundraising	5	4	3	2	1
Audience Development	52	21	18	6	15
Fundraising	12	26	28	16	23
Grant writing	28	20	31	12	17
Other Topics of interest	Marketing, Volunteer Recruitment (depend on volunteer for programs), Identifying funding opportunities in development staff, Ethnic minorities, I wrote grants but would like more info on museum specific grants. I do ed. grants.				
Evaluation	5	4	3	2	1
Audience	46	26	28	8	8
Program	61	28	23	3	9
Exhibits	48	20	29	8	9
Other Topics of interest	School Programs, Value/Choice of interactive, Teachers' Use of Museums				
Interpretive materials	5	4	3	2	1
Audio Guides	13	15	21	17	31
Curriculum Materials	67	21	18	9	3
Gallery and Family Guides	61	24	17	9	4

Results - continued

Label Writing	27	21	20	19	15
Electronic Formats	33	20	20	20	15
(specify, web sites, kiosks, etc)	See below				
Other Topics of interest	Color Coordination, Demonstration Development Nonprofit org/School Collaboration, Guides/Packets sent to schools, Language Issues, Video,				
Partnerships	5	4	3	2	1
Museum/School Collab	66	25	14	9	6
Museum/Community Collab	56	34	17	6	4
Other Topics of interest	Collaborations w/business, Native Americans, Museum collaboration,				
Programming	5	4	3	2	1
Age-Specific Programs (specify age)	40	18	26	4	2
Exhibition Development	37	19	24	11	8
Jr Volunteers/Internships	11	21	31	15	17
Multicultural	31	25	19	12	11
Outreach	34	28	21	9	6
Special Needs	15	25	25	14	8
Teacher Training	37	27	16	18	5
Research	14	20	20	19	9
Audience Research	18	25	27	14	9
Current Research in Edu	38	30	14	11	8
Current Res in Museology	25	19	21	14	11
Current Res Museum Ed	53	24	15	9	6
Other Topics of interest	Theatre Education, Museum Theatre, Project Management, Informal Learning Environments, Roles of artists, Using museum to help teach curriculum in schools.				
Training/Staff development	5	4	3	2	1
Docent Training	43	22	22	8	11
Interns	13	19	27	22	16
Practical Teaching Strat	47	31	19	5	7
Staff	20	24	19	9	15
Other Topics of interest	Artist Training, Management Training, Volunteer Recruitment				

Additional Topics of interest	Joint research projects, Networking w/other educators, Crowd Control-How to handle a group(of visitors), Management of Faculty/Staff, "Curatorial Techniques, Preservation, Documentation, Exhibition of delicate Items," Organizational Learning/How to develop a career as a consultant in museum education., Museum educator as Researcher, New Museums-Tate International Museum News, Display Sources, International view on museum education, Business/Management/Board Mgmt, Mobile Units, Working strategies w/education/curatorial depts, Museum schools.
	Please have more programs for those of us who work w/live collections & outdoors. Zoos/Botanic Gardens/Aquaria, etc.

Ages Specified	Count
Adult	2
Toddler	3
Early Childhood	1
Preschool	2
Preschool – Teen	1
K & Pre-K	2
Elementary Age	2
10 years old	1
3 rd Grade	1
4 th Grade	1
All	2
2 – 9	1
2 – 12	1
3 – 12	1
4 – 8	1
8 – 10	1
K – 6	4
K – 12	1
12 – 16	2
11 – 18	1
High School	3
Teens	7
Children & Adults	1
Junior High	1
5 – 18	1
>25	1
College	1
50 +	1

Note: I didn't quite know how to best categorize the age responses. Any suggestions?

2. Can you recommend a specific individual or organization to address any specific area of interest?

No. The question is unclear.

Area of interest: CA Native American

Artist/Demonstrator

Individual: William Pink

Organization:

Address: c/o 3451 Park Ave.

Hemet, CA

Phone: 909-658-4206 pager: 909-209-0790

Area of interest:

Individual: Chris Parsons

Organization: CARE, NAME

Address:

Phone:

Area of interest: Community Partnerships

Individual: Elizabeth Morin

Organization: Artebello

Address: 405 Findlay Ave., Montebello, CA 90640

Phone: 323-721-3935

Results - continued

Area of interest: Museum Educator as Researcher

Individual: Maryanna Adams & Lynn Dierking

Organization: Institute for Learning Innovation

Address: Dierking@ilinet.org

Phone: Adams@ilinet.org

Area of interest: Fundraising/Grants Writing

Individual:

Organization: Flintridge Foundation

Address:

Phone:

Area of interest: AIN – Naturalist approach education

Individual: Joan Cahil

Organization:

Address: Anza Borrego State Park

Phone:

Area of interest: Sharing Nature with Children

Individual: Joseph Correll

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Area of interest: Narratives, performance

Individual: 1) Lisa Roberts 2) Charles Garoian

Organization: 1) Author From Knowledge to Narrative 2) Artist & Educator

Address: 2) Penn State – interested in performative space of museums.

Phone:

Area of interest: Organizational Learning

Individual: Peter Senge

Organization: MIT's Sloan School of Mgmt

Address:

Phone:

Area of interest: Art Outreach/Community

Individual: Roderick Sykes

Organization: St. Elmo Village

Address:

Phone:

Area of interest: Curriculum-based Programming, Preschool Programs & Hi School
Docents

Individual: Carol Henderson

Organization: Homestead Museum

Address: 15415 E. Don Julian Road

Phone: 626-968-8492

Area of interest:

Individual: Edra Moore

Organization: Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Mojave Desert State Parks

Address: 43779 15th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534-4754

Phone: 661-946-3055 e-mail: emoore@calparks Mojave.com

Our museum is developing a new interpretive program specific to interp. of American Indian culture. We will be going on line w/programs for 3rd & 4th grade students and teachers. We are involving many qualified individuals as advisors. If you would like referrals, you may call me.

Area of interest: Docents

Individual: Alan Gartenhaus

Organization: The Docent Educators

Address: Box 2080, Kamuela, WI 96743-2080

Phone: 808-885-7725

Area of interest: **Wants to host a workshop**

Individual: Nancy Warzer-Brady, Director of Education & Public Programs

Organization: The Bowers Museum of Cultural Art

Address: 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone: 714-567-3679

3. MESC provides two-day seminars, one on management and one on teaching, in alternate years. Which of the following were you able to attend?

1999: Mgmt Seminar	13
2000: Teaching Seminar	21
None	21
TOTAL	55

4. If you were unable to attend a two-day seminar, please note why:

Response	Count
Topic Didn't Pertain to my position	12
Program addressed higher occup level	7
Program addressed lower occup level	4
Topic did not capture my interest	11
Could not spend time away from my institution	49
Registration fee was too high	5
Location was inconvenient	14
*Other	28
TOTAL	130

Responses included: Was not here; Not available; Not working in region; Not a MESC member; Do not recall-sorry; Not enough notice ahead of time; Full-time grad student; Out of town-wanted to attend; Not a member yet; Not everyone from institution can go; Bad timing for my institution; Previous commitments; Time was inconvenient; Wasn't aware of seminars; On vacation; Out of town on business; Dates bad; Bad timing; Timing didn't work out; Wasn't on staff; I have enjoyed past 2-day seminars, simply missed these; Mother was dying and had to close her affairs; I wasn't around in position in 1999; Unavailable; Unaware of it; Just joined; Did not know about the seminars; Did not know about the seminars; New member; Not a member yet; Other work interfered; Away or teaching class; Came at a time I was unable to get away from museum; Didn't fit into schedule; Dates were bad; Conflict in personal calendar; Must go through a complicated, bureaucratic process for permission & funding; Conflict with teaching; Heard it before; Institution didn't send very many staff to seminar; Membership lapsed/wasn't informed.

5. What topics interest you for future Management Seminars?

Response	Count
Communication Skills and styles	55
Implementation of Excellence in Equity	35
Institutional trauma	10
Long-range or strategic planning	60
Managing by objectives	33
Performance appraisals	22
Personality types in relation to the workplace	31
Diversity Training	30
*Other	5
Responses included: Role of education departments; Budgets/Fiscal Management; Current research in 1) Education, 2) Museology & 3) Museum education; Organization skills; Successful collaboration w/other institutions, i.e. museums, schools, arts org. community groups; Museum mentors: Successful "programs" "docents;" Motivating employees/volunteers; Giving museum professionals more & better support for creativity in position – trust from colleagues and administrators.	

SECTION 6 – Comments

- I am also occupied at a second museum: professional, part-time Museum Guide, 5 years in position, public institution, \$10./hr., museum is science/technology (astronomy). The second institution is not a member of MESC.
- A great resource for students!
- It would be wonderful for workshops near the L.A./Long Beach area could start in the afternoon. I live on Catalina Island and many programs offered in the a.m. require me to do an overnight hotel stay.
- Definitely flying in nationally recognized researchers, educators (Hein, Falk, Dierking). These would be billed as org events, perhaps a night with them in a museum setting w/cocktails so we have a chance to ask questions and socialize among ourselves along with listening to a magnificent keynote speech. It would be interesting to try a night-time event, perhaps Thursday night?
- I have noticed that many of MESC's programs focus on the larger LA-based museums such as LACMA, the CA Science Center etc....I have also noticed a bias towards art institutions. Moreover, when dealing w/schools & curriculum matters you focus solely on LAUSD. When did Southern California become only LA? I would like to see greater variety in programs and presenters - - - get some new blood involved. People want to hear about new places & visit new sites not just hear about the same 5 programs/museums over and over.
- The gatherings & seminars are usually pretty formal. It would be lovely to see some informal workshops (perhaps on-site) that illustrate some relevant topic. One gathering that was held at LACMA was fun, inspirational and informative. However, some of the informal presentations have been too casual.
- New to all this – not much to say yet! Looking for work in field.
- Dear Friend, Shortly after I joined MESC, I started doing volunteer work with the Children's Nature Institute and have found just what I've been seeking: a way to use my love of the natural world with my love of children. Since I know I won't be using my skins in-doors, I would like to discontinue my membership with MESC. Thank you for all of your good work. Jean Dancs Arthur
- Because educators are busy and devote a great deal of time studying exhibition topics in order to be able to develop programming, and because professional meetings cover other topic necessary to carrying out one's responsibilities as an educator, I would like to see a summer seminar dedicated to current educational research, eg. How children learn, Learning and social justice, Role of culture in education, Issues in teacher training, etc.

- I think MESC is better about presenting practical information prog. presenters than most org. Interest in case studies from small museums. Interest in planning strategies and tools re: coll management for long term problems/projects. How to get it done w/o enough time on our hands.
- Living and working in Riverside means a 75 – 90 minute drive to anymeetins in the greater L.A. area. 2-day meetings mean either many hours on the freeway or a hotel expense. Any seminars have to be very pertinent and well-timed to justify the time and money.
- It seems all meetings/seminars are in the LA area – please mix it up for those of us in the southern regions -- even Orange County would help. Early morning meetings are hard to get to with traffic, etc. Thanks.-
- I very much appreciate MESC's programs and efforts. However as a museum employee and administrator for a California State Parks unit, I am limited by policy, funding, and philosophical restraints. Most basic of these is the fact that I have no staff (other than 3 seasonal park aides) and am responsible for all museum operation and programs ranging from bldg. Maintenance issues to all aspects of curatorial and collections mgmt concerns to volunteer supervisor to liaison w/volunteer assn. To interp. Specialist in charge of all interp. Programs. I cannot properly and professionally address MESC programs in a manner that would be usual. Are there others with similar circumstances?
- Always looking for ways to beat the budget – want high visual inter-active displays – but on a “knock-off” budget. Would love tricks and techniques for “window-dressing” an exhibition. List of set designers who free-lance. List exhibit builders who free-lance in local area.
- We have attended at least two workshops per year in the past, but it gets harder and harder to get away. Would like to see a calendar of season's offerings so that we could choose one and do out best to get there. Thanks.
- I have only been a MESC member for the past year and a half, but I have really enjoyed the workshops that I have been able to attend and find them very worthwhile of my time.
- I am very interested in meeting other museum educators perhaps in informal and fun events to discuss challenges. How to use & make sense of research; how to manage staff & supervisors above us; to form collaborative research projects, etc. The lunch meetings are nice but we seem to just get started when I have to return – also I am at a science museum and sometimes the focus doesn't apply.
- I find the MESC newsletter a very informative paper and useful to my needs. Does MESC Newsletter have a “advertising” section for a nominal fee, for small museums to advertise programs? Also, I informed a person in charge of a program held on April 15 that that date is the last day of Passover, & observant Jews may not attend. I sent her a Jewish calendar! Keep up the good work!

- I would like to become an active volunteer for MESC. If you need any help, please call me @ 310-860-1410. Thanks, Gila Lehavi.
- Is it possible to send and/or mail out information on upcoming seminars 6-8 weeks in advance rather than 4 weeks in advance?
- Please mail notices earlier. We plan the whole year in advance and would utilize the seminars more if we could have maximum advanced notice. Thank you.
- From: Museum of History and Art, Ontario, CA.
- MESC should have a mixer/reception. I'm happy to pay more in membership if it will yield to "social" opportunities – the time to socialize at events is minimal. Field trips to a parks career fair. Resume review session. Mentoring – pairing up beginning professionals with established staff. Give current members a forum to present their research/work. I appreciate guest speakers, but I'd like feedback about my own work based on local peer review. Overall, I really enjoy MESC.
- I have taught workshops on this (Personality types in relation to the workplace) in Britain (Victoria & Albert Museum) & Canada w/a colleague who is an education & Meyers Briggs specialist. Kelly McKinley @ Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.
- Working with public schools for better teacher training in using museums to teach curriculum is high priority – well should be! Teachers could be formidable advocates for museum education—but often are not comfortable or confident. Need training badly. Developing curriculum units important work for us, and working with teenagers (especially minority students) in paid training programs based in museums.
- I really appreciate MESC, due to the fact that we have a small staff it is not always convenient for me to get to LA. Fridays are the most difficult days. I'd like to see some programs at MOCA. Talking about "difficult" exhibitions would be helpful for most other organizations as well.
- If some answers seem unclear, as to what exactly I do and how museums are involved, I am enclosing a brochure that perhaps might explain further. Museum visits are a vital and integral part of the Ethnic Experience.