

Safety vs. Free Play

Hands On! Preconference at Ecsite 2018
6 June 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Gelöscht: <Objekt>

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums will actively participate in this year's Ecsite conference Creative Collisions hosted by the Natural History Museum Geneva. Our aim is to heighten the awareness and the visibility of children in museums and science centers in a wider professional community.

This year, we are going to present three formats exploring various aspects of the conflict between creating interactive environments encouraging physical activity and keeping visitors safe.

In order to provide participants with real-life examples **WE NEED YOU!**
Join us and present your work to colleagues from all over the world.

Tue., 5 June 2018	Wed., 6 June 2018	Thu., 7 June 2018	Fri., 8 June 2018	Sat., 9 June 2018
	Hands On! Preconference: Safety vs. Free Play	Hands On! Session: Applied Accident Management		
		Hands On! Session Restricted Formats		
Preconference day	Preconference day	Main conference	Main conference	Main conference

I. HANDS ON! PRECONFERENCE: SAFETY VERSUS FREE PLAY

Call: Best Practice

Present a project, which tests the limits of safety guidelines and legal situations in your country. Share insights on how you work, obstacles you are facing, and how you brought together the opposing issues of safety and physical activities.

Session content:

As researches show, today's children are significantly lacking possibilities for free play and similar open settings for physical activities. Science Centers and museums are challenged to fill these gaps with hands-on exhibits and encouraging environments, which allow children to practice and develop their motor skills. Inviting people of all ages and capabilities to actively engage with exhibits and tools of course entails a number of legal and ethic issues, like liability, which have the potential to threaten the organizations as a whole. In most countries we experience the increasing tendency to pass off the individual responsibility of visitors to the hosts.

This development forces institutions of informal learning to adopt detailed safety policies and safety seals, causing the repression of innovative participatory formats.

Questions like, *'How can science centres and museums provide children with hands-on*

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activities within highly standardized legal structures?’ ‘How are safety issues addressed in different countries’, ‘Which safety issues do institutions face?’ and ‘How far do we dare to push our luck in terms of safety?’ will be raised and discussed during this interactive session.

Structure:

I. Keynotes

Two expert speakers will share give valuable input about the topics of safety and free play, followed by a participatory discussion.

II. Best practice

Share your project!

III. Workshop

Case study

Please note:

We only have a limited number of speaker slots available, but we might offer you a slot in our sessions for the main conference (see description below)

II. HO!-SESSION MAIN CONFERENCE: APPLIED ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT IN MUSEUMS AND SCIENCE CENTERS

Call: Real-life accidents

Share an actual accident, which took place on the premises of your institution.

Each speaker is granted two minutes speaking time to outline the circumstances and the events of an accident involving visitors. We want to know what happened, why it happened, how it was handled, which actions were taken to prevent similar accidents and how the experience influences future projects.

Session contents:

This session takes this year’s conference theme Creative Collisions literally: We will discuss real-life accidents in the exhibitions and programmes of Ecsite and Hands On! member-organizations.

After a short convenor’s input, a series of various accidents experienced by the speakers will be presented in a PechaKucha-like format, granting each speaker two minutes to outline the circumstances and the events of one accident involving their visitors.

Furthermore, they will also list which actions were taken by their institution to prevent similar accidents in the future.

The presentations are followed by a guided discussion about accident management, relevant guidelines, communication strategies, and other issues relevant to ensure a sensitive and effective follow-up of incidents.

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Please note: According to Ecsite's speakers policy, participation at this lecture will be at your own expenses. Early bird registration starts on 14 February 2018.

III. HANDS ON! SESSION MAIN CONFERENCE: RESTRICTED FORMATS: INNOVATIVE EXHIBIT(ION) DESIGN AND THE BOUNDARIES OF TODAY'S COMPENSATION CULTURE

Call: Innovative formats

Share your creative exhibits and exhibition formats, which encourage visitors to create, build, tinker or get physically active within the exhibition spaces. Questions like, 'Which obstacles in terms of safety and legal issues did you face?', 'Which ideas didn't make the cut, due to safety concerns?' should be taken up for the presentation.

Session contents:

This session will explore the difficulties curators and exhibition designers face, when trying to implement new maker- inspired exhibition concepts. On the one hand, today's visitors are expecting highly engaging hands-on experiences, on the other hand, they are quick to blame operators of Science Centres and museums for the slightest inconveniences. Especially when working with families and schools, institutions are often understood to be absolutely liable and are frequently confronted with claims for compensation. The fear of law sue also effects the exhibit planning process, especially when it comes to open maker activities involving real tools or other highly participatory formats. This session presents different innovative exhibition formats, which encourage people to create items within the exhibition spaces, build structures or get physically active beyond the normal level. We will explore how the creation of open participatory formats is threatened by the urge of institutions to legally protect themselves. How can Science Centres and Museums balance both, innovation and legal security? What would exhibition makers like to offer, but do not dare to tackle given the current situation? How can children develop motor skills and creativity within these very restricted settings? Which legal framework do these formats need? Is there a way out? These and similar questions will be discussed after the presentation of the best practice examples.

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HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS:

1. Fill out a short description of your proposal (see p.4).
 - Make sure to state for which session you are submitting an entry.
 - Give a brief outline of the content of your proposal no longer than 250 words
2. Send your proposal to the Hands On! Office → secretariat@hands-on-international.net

Feldfunktion geändert

SHORT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION:

Name:
Institution:
Call:
IF applying for the Preconference Are you willing to take on a slot in the main conference sessions instead? <i>(Participation in the sessions is at your own expenses)</i> (yes/no):
Abstract (max. 250 words)