



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Royal BC Museum Leaders to Guest Co-Chair MW18**

*February 15, 2018, Silver Spring, MD* – MW18 Co-chairs, Nancy Proctor and Rich Cherry, are delighted to announce that two leaders from the Royal BC Museum – David Alexander, Head of Archives, Access and Digital and Lucy Bell, Head of the Museum’s First Nations and Repatriation Department – will be joining them as Guest Co-chairs of the 22<sup>nd</sup> North American MW Conference, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia 18-21 April, 2018. “Museums exist as hotbeds of innovation,” said David Alexander. “I’m excited to help bring this conference to Vancouver and highlight some of the cultural leaders and ground breaking projects that Canadian GLAM institutions are working on.” “Repatriation and language revitalization have never been more urgent in the cultural field,” added Lucy Bell. “I look forward to helping connect leading practitioners with Canadian and international resources to help them accomplish this important work.”

“The MW program is built from the ground up, by the community, for the community,” said Nancy Proctor. “We are grateful for the opportunity to strengthen the voices of Canadian leadership and expertise in the MW community thanks to Lucy and David’s inspiring contributions to the conference program.” Rich Cherry remarked, “Collaboration among cultural organizations and across geographic and other boundaries is the key to success for galleries, libraries, archives and museums – the entire GLAM sector. With their broad experience and multi-disciplinary expertise, David and Lucy are ideally positioned to help us ensure that participants at MW18 connect with peers in multiple areas to raise the standards and impact of cultural practice globally.”

The four MW18 Co-chairs look forward to working with their colleagues at MW18 in Vancouver and continuing to build on the community’s contributions in future conferences.

#### **About David Alexander:**

Pursuing passions for museums, archives and the digital world, David Alexander joined the Royal BC Museum in 2010. As Head of Archives, Access and Digital, David oversees an integrated department that includes IT, the provincial archives, physical and digital access to collections, and preservation and digital services and initiatives. In charge of digital and IT, he oversaw development of new collection management systems, new digital platforms for access including a province-wide learning portal aimed at students and educators, 100 Objects of Interest which provides a deeper dive into the collections and Transcribe, Canada’s first archival crowd-sourced transcription platform.

David has a master’s of applied communication from Royal Roads University, a BA from the University of Victoria and broad experience in the cultural, non-profit and business sectors. David is Past President of the BC Museums Association and a member of the Alliance for Arts and Culture Board, as well as past Development Chair for the Greater Victoria Public Library and former Advocacy Chair for the Association of Canadian Archivists.

#### **About Lucy Bell:**

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Lucy Bell joined the Royal BC Museum in January 2017 as the Head of the First Nations Department and Repatriation Program. Lucy's department brings the former ethnology and archaeology departments onto one team. A member of the Haida Nation, Lucy is a founding member of the Haida Heritage and Repatriation Society, where she has been at the forefront of the Nation's repatriation program.

Since 2005, Lucy has coordinated the return of more than five hundred Haida ancestors from museums throughout North America and the United Kingdom. The documentary *Stolen Spirits of Haida Gwaii* charts the success of just one strand of this remarkable program.

Lucy is a Distinguished UVIC Alumni. Prior to joining the Royal BC Museum, Lucy worked for the Xaad Kihlgaa Hi Suu.u (Speak Haida Society), and co-curated the award-winning "Haida Spirits of the Sea" with CHIN for Expo '98. Lucy has received a BC community Achievement award for her work in repatriation and is passionate about the repatriation and revitalization of language resources from museum and archival collections. She has presented on both repatriation and language revitalization at several conferences around the world, advised on the development of a number of exhibitions on Indigenous culture and promoted Haida culture in both print and broadcast media.

### **About the Royal BC Museum:**

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

### **About MW**

MW18 is the second meeting of the Museums and the Web (MW) community in Vancouver; the first was in 2005, organized by founders David Bearman and Jennifer Trant, who are still based in Canada. Bearman and Trant launched the organization as "Museums and the Web" in 1997 to convene meetings of an international community around innovation and the use of new technologies in the cultural heritage sector. Over the past 22 years, the annual North American conference has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world, and provides free online access to more than 1,200 papers documenting leading-edge projects and best practices in the field written by conference participants (<http://museumsandtheweb.com/papers>). The #MW18 meeting (<http://MW18.MWconf.org>) is April 18-21, 2018 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre.

Rich Cherry and Nancy Proctor have been the MW co-chairs since 2012. As Deputy Director, **Rich Cherry** managed the construction and opening of the new Broad art museum in Downtown LA, and has also led construction projects for the Skirball Center and Albright Knox Museum. He is now a principal at Modern Operations, which offers C level consulting for museum operations, technology and construction, strategic planning, management of large scale high-profile high-design projects and a commitment to design excellence. Previously, Cherry was the founding director of the Balboa Park

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Online Collaborative (BPOC) and CIO at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. **Nancy Proctor, PhD** is Executive Director of the [MuseWeb Foundation](#), MW's non-profit initiative, and of the Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture, which is being relaunched as a platform for innovation in the cultural sector, based in the first museum purpose-built in the U.S. Previously she was Deputy Director of Digital Experience and Communications at the Baltimore Museum of Art (2014-2016) and Head of Mobile Strategy and Initiatives at the Smithsonian.

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