Session Proposal Form
for
2016 Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums Conference
New York City, planned for Spring 2016

Please review proposal guidelines on website before completing the session proposal form.
Please type form.

Type of Session please pick ONE:

☐ Panel Session  ☑ Individual Presentation  ☐ Discussion/Roundtable

☐ Workshop/Skill Session—please select length of workshop:  ☐ 2 hours  ☐ Half-day  ☐ Full-day

Session Title: Let’s Get Small: Using Scale Models Effectively In Museums

Session Description:
Scale models of aircraft actually predate the invention of real aircraft, and aviation museums are often awash with indifferently constructed model airplanes. Do these model collections advance the museum’s themes, or do they disrupt the learning process? This is a lively, illustrated analysis of what works — and what doesn’t — when museums use scale models.

Session Outline:
A. Why Models? Because they expand presentations
B. Why Models? Because they recreate a lost reality
C. Why Models? Because they’re a meditative experience
D. Why Models? Because they bridge interpretive gaps
E. Why Models? Because they’re cute
F. In Search of Coherence: Tying it all together thematically
G. Considering Models: Ask yourself why, instead of why not?
H. Over by the Wall: What’s going through their minds?
I. Ask Yourself Again: Why am I looking at this little thing?
J. Telling the Story: Afterthoughts create narrative clutter
K. Supplementary Data: Getting lost in the details
L. Traffic Control: Are the passengers circling the airplanes?
M. Setting Standards: Mass modeling for the masses
N. Appropriate Acquisition: Quality costs, and so does crap
O. Bad Advice: Don’t follow it!
P. Random Examples: The horror! the horror!
Q. Case Study: And let’s make it close to home

Learning Objectives:
1. Are their museums using scale models effectively when interpreting aviation history? How can their collections become focused?
2. Are there curatorial standards applied to the acquisition, construction, care and interpretation of scale models?
3. How do museum professionals view models, and how does the average visitor see them?

Subject Area please pick ONE:

☐ Museum Administration  ☐ Collections Management  ☐ Restoration/Conservation
☐ Exhibition Design  ☐ Education and Programming  ☐ Development & Marketing
☐ Media & Technology  ☐ Other topic area

Audience: The issues raised by functional use of scale models are relevant to any museum size — and smaller museums may benefit more from their interpretive powers.

For skills-based session, please check:

☐ Beginner  ☐ Intermediate  ☐ Advanced

PRESENTER 1:
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Submission deadline is June 1, 2015
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