**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

**HANDS ON! MEMBERS CREATE THE CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR**

Hands On! Association is an international community of committed and inspiring professionals, who get the opportunity to meet and exchange at the upcoming HO! conference. The organizational team wants YOUR ideas and YOUR inputs. We want you to CREATE THE CONFERENCE YOURSELVES! Speak, lead a workshop, present your project, or let us know, if you know interesting individuals or projects, which could be of value for us all.

**The call for your proposals is open until April 7, 2017.**

**The sooner, the better!** If there is anything, you want to offer, discuss or comment on, please connect with our secretariat in Graz 🡪[secretariat@hands-on-international.net](mailto:secretariat@hands-on-international.net)). We are always grateful for your feedback!

**THIS YEAR’S HANDS ON! CONFERENCE**

WHAT SHOULD IT BE ABOUT?

***We, as museum professionals help children to get ready for the future and have to ask ourselves: What is it that they need? What traits, qualities and abilities do we need to foster in children? How do we envision the future of children in the world in 10-20 years and what are our responsibilities as cultural institutions?***

*We see the conference as a collective journey to find an answer to these questions. In order to do so, we have divided the conference into three main content blocks:*

***First day***

*Within the setting of (post-) industrial Pilsen, we want to discuss crucial elements forming the living reality of our children: impact of digital media, technologies on children + relevance of European cultural heritage of humanism.*

***Second day***

*Within the setting of the art- oriented children museum in Pisek, we want to discuss ways of how to help children in becoming “good people”: how to nourish their imagination, creativity, confidence, sense of justice, empathy and ability to act.*

***Third day***

*In the National Gallery in Prague, we want to explore the social role and component of working with children in museums and close up our journey by formulating a vision of cultural institutions in behalf of children, their future and their place in society.*

***Fourth day***

*This day is dedicated to your personal discoveries, reflections and experience.*

**OUTLINE OF SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

***First Day***

**TOPIC: Science/Technology and Humanity**

*We look for sessions:*

* *Reflecting children vs. technologies*
* *Practical usage of technologies / digital medias*

*We look for good practices of:*

* + - Children’s museums working with new technology or in the field of science
    - Children’s museums, which try to be “technology free”

***Second Day***

**TOPIC: Art, stories and play as tools to foster children in their social and personal development**

*We look for proposals for:*

* + - *Session dedicated to small children (0-6 yrs)*
    - *Session dedicated to Children Books*
    - *Session dedicated to Physical Play*
    - *Creative Laboratory Session*

*We look for good practices of:*

* + - *Enhancing children’s creativity and imagination*
    - *Engaging children physically*
    - *Approaching ethical topics in multicultural societies*
    - *Working with stories and children books*
    - *Engaging teens*

***Third Day***

**TOPIC: Museums and galleries as places of social engagement and their role in the future**

*We look for good practices of:*

* + - *Socially responsible institutions*
    - *Projects dedicated to topics such as peace, social issues, prejudice, ethnics, etc.*

*We look for insights on envisioning the cultural educating center for children of 21st century*

**QUESTIONS TO GET RELATED TO:**

1. Today’s children living reality: Labyrinth of technologies and networks – what is it, is it good or bad, how can we deal with it, how can we support children in this reality?
2. Approaching ethical topics in a multicultural society – a need and a challenge
3. Children as heroes: societies need for heroes. How can we prepare children for roles like this?
4. Storytelling – the basic human tool of passing on experience - in children books and in museums – how can this issue be approached and experienced?
5. Nourishing imagination and empathy as a the basic tool to create an ideal world (just, balanced, beautiful)
6. Children as physical creatures: how to accept and welcome the body of the child in a museum?
7. Children and art – how can we enable children to accept and be accepted in art?
8. Vision of the educating center for children in the 21st century – what should it be? Where do we stand now?

**PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS**

We also want to provide **practical workshops**. Share what you are good at and help your peers to be better! If there is something concrete, you want to address, tell us. If you want to participate and are not sure how, contact us!

*For example:*

* How to find cheap solutions for expositions?
* How to run a business plan?
* How to create a creative environment?
* How to engage your community
* Bright marketing tips
* Fundraising?

Is there something we forgot? Is there something you would like to hear and talk about at the conference, or something else you would like to do?

**Please let us know and help us create an extraordinary conference –exactly how you need it!**

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS:**

**1. Fill out a short description of your proposal (see p.4).**

* + Make sure your proposal fits the daily topics and the overall theme of the conference
  + Give a brief outline of the content of your proposal in form a an abstract not longer than 250 words

**2. Send your proposal together with the short description to the Hands On! Office**  🡪 [secretariat@hands-on-international.net](mailto:secretariat@hands-on-international.net)

**SHORT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION**

**Name:**

**Institution:**

**Overall Theme:**

**Topic:**

**Format:**

**Abstract (max. 250 words)**

**EXAMPLE:**

**Name:** Bettina Deutsch-Dabernig

**Institution:** FRida & freD, Das Grazer Kindermuseum

**Overall Theme:** Inclusion, empathy

**Topic (Day/Session):** Day 3/ Role and Responsibilities of Museums

**Format:** short presentation

**Abstract (max. 250 words)**

Between the years 2007- 2009 the Graz Children’s Museum featured the unique exhibition, named “Dialog in the Dark” to its audience. Blind and vision-impaired guides lead visitors through exhibition spaces in total darkness…