

Fueling Connections and Community with ALPN: Join the Network | April 9 2023

0:08

Hello everyone, welcome.

0:12

We're so glad that you're joining us for this session today and a great and exciting partnership and collaboration between the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management to share this new initiative around establishing the atomic legacy Preservation network for museums, cultural sites and other interpretive centers that have connection to the country's nuclear legacy.

0:48

My name is Laura Huerta Migas.

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I am the Deputy Director for the Office of Museum Services and happy to be emceeding this session today.

1:00

A few housekeeping items as you all come into the session.

1:05

We do have the chat open throughout the webinar for any questions or comments, and as you join the session, we'd love for you to introduce yourself in the chat.

1:19

Let us know what organization you're coming from and maybe where you are in the world and what's brought you here today to give us a feel for who's out here in the Zoom Room.

1:33

Today's session will be LED primarily by Anita Iyer Caruso from ALPN Department of Energy.

1:42

She will be joined in support by Summer Porter from her team, as well as Joseph Kent from the National Atomic Testing Museum, who's already in partnership with Anita and her team in helping to establish this new network and talk about what the promise in the future might be.

2:06

And so I am going to turn it over to Anita and Joseph and Summer.

2:12

In just a moment, we will have this presentation.

2:15

As I said, please feel free to use the chat and or the Q&A function throughout the presentation.

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You don't need to wait till the end, but we will be monitoring this and have time for a question and answer period after the main presentation.

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And so with that Anita, I'll hand it over to you.

2:41

OK, great.

2:42

Thanks.

2:42

We'll get summer.

2:43

Just a second to get the slides up.

2:56

OK, awesome.

2:58

So thanks for that, Laura.

3:00

I'm Anita Icaruso.

3:01

I'm the Director of Communication Services for the Office of Environmental Management.

3:06

If we go into the next slide and so the Office of Environmental Management isn't typically what you think of when you hear the Department of Energy, most people think of gas prices or energy efficiency or solar panels, things like that.

3:25

But but our mission's a little bit unique from what you usually think of when you hear DOE our mission's to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from nuclear weapons development, government sponsored nuclear energy research.

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And so our origin are in the Manhattan Project and then from there going on to the Cold War and then to the clean up that resulted as a result of that.

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So can we go to the next slide.

3:51

So Elka makes the connections between the different museums, victorical centers, legacy sites, other organizations that all tell the story of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear weapons production of the United States.

4:07

So, So our goal for this is that we know there's a lot of different entities that talk about artwork, but we've not really had a venue where we could all collaborate with each other, all talk to each other.

4:21

We've we've seen that need from several different angles.

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And so we started just about in September to to form this network to to really bring all of these entities together as a group.

4:34

And next slide, so first our office started with the Manhattan Project with weapons production expanded over to the Cold War.

4:46

Once the World War Two was over, our first sites were in New Mexico, Oak Ridge in Tennessee.

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And right now it went from those sites to to sites all over the country.

5:02

And then as we began to ramp down, we started moving into a closure operation, which is what our office does and then goes to legacy management or NDOE or or other places after we're we're done cleaning up.

5:21

So we'll go into the next side.

5:23

So we're we're casting a wide network of anyone that could be part of this network.

5:28

We've talked to our sister organizations at DOE, the Office of Legacy Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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They both have the same origin story as we do.

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And in addition, some of our sites, when we finish cleaning them up, we send them over to legacy management and the legacy management manages those sites.

5:49

They also have interpretive centers.

5:52

They have them in Colorado and Ohio and in other states that talk about what happened there and then what's going on now as they've moved from being a weapons production place to a wildlife preserve or or other things like that.

6:09

We have national parks, We have the Manhattan Project, National Park, which which we've partnered with.

6:15

They have Ohio.

6:17

Are they, I'm sorry, they have sites in Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge, TN and Los Alamos, NM It's one National Park that is in three states that do not text each other.

6:30

We're also looking at some other national parks that talk about our work, tribal interpretive centers.

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We we've worked already with the Wana Palms and the Yakimas in Washington state and and hoping to work with other tribal Nations and and any kind of interpreter centers they have that have part of the EM story in it, virtual and physical museums.

6:52

Right now we've been working with people like Joe who who will speak later, other museums that you can actually go visit and then some virtual museums in places like Portsmouth, OH and Paducah, KY they have virtual museums and we'll be featuring those as well.

7:09

And we'll we include places you can visit either virtually physically and really any place that has a piece of EM history that people could go see.

7:19

So anything that would be open to the public would be included.

7:21

So can we go on to the next slide?

7:26

So how did it start?

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So it, it started really organically.

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It wasn't something that really started with saying, oh, we have a plan we're going to do this.

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It really was organically.

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It started a few years ago whenever I was asked to do a weekly history share to our leadership from across the EM complex.

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And so every week we had a trivia question and when I was asked to do them, I said I would only do it if I could make them fun.

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And and I did that and and we have a lot of fun history.

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A lot of interesting things have happened.

8:00

We have one site that was used for space exploration before the 1st man on the moon.

8:08

We've had some crazy things happen like somebody mailed radioactive Jelly to our secretary of energy to to prove a point.

8:17

Just a lot of interesting things.

8:18

So we started with that and from from that they I was asked to to work with Joe and and updating his museum as they did an EM project and I was asked to to go to another museum as part of a rotation I did in Tennessee and then something in the forest style building which is where where I am in Washington DC And so we saw from that that really there we had all these different entities but there was really nothing that linked them all together and no way that we really told the whole story in one place throughout the country.

8:56

So we started to have some listening sessions talk to people.

9:00

I called Joe said Joe what would you think about this and he said I'm all in.

9:04

And and so we really started to realize that this is something that not only do we want but but the museums that we've worked with already really have a desire to do.

9:13

So if we can go on to the next slide.

9:17

So the benefits to the institutions, they they're able to link to each other and share lessons learned, ideas.

9:27

We had a meeting a few weeks ago in Phoenix where a lot of different people came together.

9:33

Joe was on a panel with me.

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But in addition, Amzi was there, the American Museum of Science and Energy in Tennessee.

9:40

I happen to know Joe.

9:41

I happen to know the person that was representing Amzi.

9:44

And and so it said, hey, what I'd like to introduce you to each other.

9:48

And they immediately started saying we could share different resources, that there's one exhibit that Joe has that he'll send over to AMC whenever he's done with it.

10:00

A lot of things just started bubbling up to you.

10:04

We can also be a resource for speaker series.

10:07

We've we've worked with a couple different museums provided speaker series and speakers for special events.

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If if you call me, you know you're you're part of the network you say hey Anita we have this special event coming up.

10:20

Who do you think would make a good choice for somebody that we would like to invite to it And and I'll help you or somewhere I'll help you find that person greater visibility to the public and increased visitors.

10:31

So even in my hometown there's some DOE entities that I didn't know about until I started really working on this project and and I've worked in this industry for 23 years so.

10:45

So sometimes there's things in the communities you don't know about we'll we'll be able to give a greater awareness to those.

10:51

In the past year, we've really seen an uptick in visitors to the museums that talk about our work at and at EMC.

11:03

There's AK-25 museum, which which is right on the Oak Ridge site, which used to be a part of of our weapons complex and now it's an interpretive center.

11:11

It's very nice.

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And so they actually sold out of T-shirts over the summer and they only had like extra large.

11:19

I think that they didn't have a lot of sizes available because people were just scooping them up.

11:24

They saw a massive increase there and visitors and and their bookstore was almost sold out.

11:31

And I went to the Manhattan Project National Park Interpretive Center just just as a visitor when I had extra time while I was in Tennessee.

11:39

One day you could not even move in the room because so many people had visited just because there's been a popular movie and a few other things that have really gotten the public interested in it.

11:51

So hoping we can share the wealth for that.

11:54

Visitors let people know, hey, not only they're the ones you know about, but there's these other things you can go see.

12:00

We can also help with fact checking or finding information if you're not sure if something's true or you're not sure where to find it.

12:09

If I don't know, I know people that do know and so we'll be able to connect you with them and make sure you have accurate information.

12:17

In some cases we'll be able to provide physical assets.

12:22

We've we've done this for the Atomic Museum in Nevada.

12:26

When they had the ribbon cutting we were able to even send them some salt that came from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico which is a place that we are able to disposition nuclear waste and and it really gives you an easier access to DOA.

12:40

We know it's a giant agency a lot of different things going on it.

12:44

It can be a little bit unwieldy if you're part of the public to find out who makes sense to talk to.

12:50

So if if you, you know, have this network and reach out to to somebody in the network, we'll be able to connect you with those right people instead of you having to figure out a website that's really big and massive.

13:02

So we can go on to the next slide.

13:08

OK.

13:08

So So maybe wondering like, why would I do this?

13:11

What's in it for me?

13:12

And so the benefits to the government are there's a greater awareness of our work.

13:18

People often whenever I say work at DOA are shocked to find out what I really do.

13:23

And so it brings a greater awareness to the important work that that our office does in support of of the nation, educating the next generation.

13:32

We know that this office will be here for a long time.

13:35

We're looking for our next generation of workers and so hoping bring kids into the museum, high school kids, college kids into those institutions, kind of get them excited about the work.

13:48

Maybe some of them will will want to work here in the future.

13:52

And then being a good partner with our communities, bringing them together and giving them the, the resources that are available through the historic institutions.

14:04

So if we could go into the next slide and and benefits to the community so, so this has a few benefits.

14:11

It'll build a connection between the communities and other communities across the country that supported the mission or really show those connections between maybe a site in Pennsylvania and a site in Tennessee didn't really know before how they were connected and and you'll be able to build that connection greater awareness of work done in the local community.

14:33

When I found out about the place in my hometown that had a piece of this and and we started to talk about it.

14:41

I really saw people from that community as I went home really got excited about like wow we did this.

14:47

So hoping that that we'll continue to really show people how they were part of the larger picture and show help build that pride in in what they did in support of the nation increased tourism.

15:02

I talked about how the great increase in visitors we've seen to places like Tennessee and and so hoping that that that'll come to other country to other communities and so one thing when I was in Tennessee, my family went to visit me and and went on a site tour.

15:23

They were asked if if they've were on a circuit tour and there's companies that actually build tourists that go to places that that have to do with the Manhattan Project.

15:35

And so instead of giving the money to these tour groups, we would be able to build this network where they could go to a website on our map and really find out what they could do.

15:48

Like if you're going on a road trip or something like that, if you're in your own community, if you're going on a vacation, finding out what you could see wherever you're going.

15:57

And and then a greater sense of pride in our work if we could go on to the next slide.

16:03

So our path forward is we've already held some listening sessions.

16:07

We've gone to Washington State, we've met with the National Parks, we've met with legacy management, we've met with some individual museums.

16:15

So we're going to continue to have those listening sessions, really find out what benefits all the parties involved and really focus on that.

16:24

Our first network meeting we plan to have later this month, probably the very end of April.

16:30

And the one thing that I don't have on this slide is that we're we're building a website.

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We looked at it just today again and talked about it.

16:39

So it'll have some things on it.

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Like right now it just has a chart of all the States and and the entities where you can find them.

16:48

What you'll see as we continue to build that out and DOE is doing a complete website revamp this summer.

16:55

And so it'll have a map where you can click on different places and see what's available in those communities.

17:01

And so we'll continue to do that.

17:05

Right now, we're planning on having meetings about once a month, but as we continue to listen to see what people need, we'll we'll determine if once a month's the right cadence or if we went to go to quarterly or or more frequently than once a month.

17:19

And we'll build that as we continue to build out.

17:23

So next slide, so if you want to get involved in this, if you're not sure if you belong a part of it, give us a call, either e-mail me or call me.

17:35

I'll I'll give you all my phone number.

17:37

And so if you think maybe I should be involved but maybe not we can take a look at it.

17:43

We we're doing some visits to some museums, other ones we're we're just doing either Zoom chats, teams chats or or other ways just to talk and figure it out.

17:54

So love to talk to anybody about how they want to be involved, any questions they have.

18:00

And so that's really my side of the presentation and I will hand it over now to Joe, he's from the Atomic Museum in Nevada.

18:08

He's been a great partner with us and he'll give you a little bit from the museum perspective of what he sees the benefits for this.

18:15

So thank you.

18:19

Thanks so much Anita.

18:20

Everybody hear me OK.

18:23

No issues with audio hopefully.

18:26

OK, perfect.

18:27

Thank you, Laura.

18:28

So as Anita you know explained you know, Elpin sort of you know kind of grew organically just from the work that she was doing, but also work that we did with DO EE M And it really I think opened our eyes you know from the museum standpoint of what opportunities were out there that we just weren't tapping into and also a way that we could support other museums and other organizations as well.

18:54

So I'm going to backtrack a little bit and explain who we are as an institution if you've if you've not heard of us.

19:01

So as Anita mentioned, we're the Atomic Museum, we're located in Las Vegas between the Strip and UNLV.

19:08

So we have a great location, but we are small, small museum, you know, less than 25 employees and you know we have a lot of benefit from the, you know, tourists coming through of course, but but certainly as far as museums go, you know we're relatively small and we opened in 2005.

19:29

We're going to be celebrating our 20th anniversary next year, which is very exciting.

19:33

And what we are as a museum, you know, we're really just, we are here to tell the story of America's nuclear weapons testing program, specifically from the angle of the Nevada Test site, now the Nevada national security sites.

19:50

So we talk about Nevada's role in nuclear testing, but also about the wider program.

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So really, we really run the gamut of everything from STEM and, you know, local history to National History.

20:05

And of course we have a lot of artifacts on display.

20:08

We have you know, hundreds of artifacts related to nuclear testing across the board, whether that's the weapons testing or as well as other experiments that went on out there.

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And so you know, we really balance that science and history.

20:25

And so when we had the opportunity to work with EM for an exhibit that we wanted to put on display, it really you know, like I had mentioned, it really sort of grew into something bigger.

20:39

Ultimately the reason we had started working with EM was because we got a lot of questions from the guests coming through the museum, you know, asking what's going on at the site today, what's going on at these various, you know, former testing sites.

20:53

And you know, we, we had a little bit of information for them, but we didn't really have anything that dived into it that we had on display.

21:00

And so digging deeper and you know, working with, you know, some of the past stuff over at EM, we came to realize that it was a very important story that wasn't being told.

21:12

And so we worked with Anita and her team to put together a display, an exhibit, just highlighting the different sites that have been cleaned up, how they work with the community and has been really popular because again, it fills in those gaps that we have.

21:27

And I think that's one of the things that stands out to me of in terms of benefits is, you know, every museum regardless of their story being told, there are gaps in their collection and gaps into the stories they tell.

21:41

And with Alpin, what this can really do is sort of expand those resources for different museums we can work with and potentially loan artifacts from or to.

21:52

You know, there's a benefit to us, but there's benefits to others we may have as and I can guarantee you we do, we have things in our collection that just simply, you know, don't have a place in our main gallery or our rotating gallery spaces.

22:05

And so this may be an opportunity to loan those out to other you know, organizations.

22:11

You know, we were designated a National Museum in 2012 and that year we also became an affiliate of the Smithsonian.

22:17

And part of the reason the Smithsonian created that affiliate program was because they just had an abundance of artifacts in their collections room that just didn't have anywhere to go.

22:28

And so they worked with other museums to offer those as loans and as Anita mentioned earlier, you know, even offer speaker opportunities.

22:36

And that's another example of a big benefit.

22:38

If any of you are interested and you know, with your education programs, you know, it's sometimes difficult to find experts in certain areas and especially when it comes to nuclear, whether that's nuclear weapons or nuclear power or just simply, you know, adjacent experiments that have occurred over the years and especially from the different sites, we're always looking for those partnership opportunities.

23:02

And this is just an example of where that can really help us and other museums around the country.

23:09

Really one of the things that we have noticed is that we will work with certain museums that have a similar topic to ours.

23:21

But one thing that really came out of being more involved with Anita and some are in Alpin as a whole and and going to Phoenix for that presentation.

23:30

Realize how many of these small museums or historic sites really exist that talk about, you know, aspects of this story.

23:39

You know, we talk about it from very much and and you know the test site angle from Nevada, but there's locations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Tennessee, Texas that you know all tell a portion of that story.

23:53

And so instead of working with a group here or group there, we didn't realize there was this whole, you know, this whole essentially network where you could work with, we could work with other museums.

24:06

And so that possibility was very exciting to me.

24:10

And and for our museum as a whole, you know, we, we sometimes will focus on our little pocket of partners.

24:17

I'm sure a lot of you can understand what I mean.

24:20

You kind of have your community of museums that you work with, you feel comfortable with, but so you don't necessarily know what's out there.

24:27

And so it helps us fill in the gaps.

24:29

We can help others fill in the gaps of the story they tell and I think together tell a wider story of of nuclear testing and nuclear energy, you know, across the board, you know, I I think ultimately the goal is for all of our guests and all the visitors coming through our doors is to leave more educated.

24:49

So if we can partner up and actually tell the entire story for them, whether that's through tours or through the website that Anita had mentioned, I think it's an exciting opportunity.

25:02

You know, I I think sometimes there's a sense that you have to be, you know, you're competing with other museums and there's certainly a part of that, right?

25:08

We, you know, we have, you know only so many guests who want to go to the museum.

25:13

So you there's an element of competition.

25:15

But I also think that because of the world that we're in and I think also the theme of nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, you know, we all focus on it from very much a specific angle, right?

25:31

We focus on a specific story.

25:33

So there's really not so much a competition with this as much it is to help elevate each other and there's a lot of opportunities there to, you know, to really champion smaller museums.

25:43

You know, I mentioned we're considered a small museum because we have less than 25 people on staff.

25:48

But here's sites, historic sites and other museums that are lucky to have five people on staff.

25:55

And so they don't have a ton of resources whether that's staff time or even you know financial.

26:02

You may not be in the financial situation to be able to do, you know, a lot of things, but being able to support them, you know, whether that's you know, step in for a, you know, a speaker series and and talk a little bit more about, you know, what we do or if it's learning them artifacts that they just we just don't have access to otherwise.

26:23

Or also giving them, you know, maybe we have an exhibit, A traveling exhibit that can go to them, right.

26:29

Or you know, a number of other resources whether that's educational materials that we can share or collaborating on grants, which I think is a really important one.

26:40

You know there's there's really so much untapped potential with this and Alpin is really something that I'm very much excited about.

26:48

You know it's it's we're we're in a small industry you know in terms of what we talked about specifically nuclear.

26:57

So having the ability to to really raise everybody's profile I think is a really critical at this moment.

27:08

But yeah and and that's pretty much you know my thoughts on it, just you know, very excited, very much optimistic about where this can go.

27:16

And I think it's only going to grow and I think as more of us in terms of museums join, I think that'll even create more possibilities and opportunities for us.

27:26

And so I think you know, you know it, it's it's something I'm I'm excited for basically.

27:32

So and I think if if we don't have anything else, I think we can open it for questions.

27:38

Thank you so much, Joseph for that wonderful testimony and Anita for introduction to the network.

27:47

And just as a reminder to folks, please feel free to put questions in the chat.

27:52

We've had some questions in the Q&A also that maybe I'll revisit very quickly.

28:01

There were questions about how to to join the network, but I'll I'll hold that one for a second because I'd like to get into a juicy question that Brian Martin sent to us in the Q&A here about how I think Anita, this is particularly for you.

28:22

But Joseph, you touched on this as well on how you see the initiative working to counter some of the nuclear amnesia.

28:30

I love that turn of phrase, Brian.

28:32

Thank you.

28:33

At the places where maybe the physical legacy of nuclear activities will be passed on to generations well into the future when we give that space.

28:41

Anita, this is something you and I had a great conversation at the beginning about.

28:45

So if you can also talk about those broader hopes that you have, you know for this network and for institutions you know to to join up.

28:56

So that's that's a great question.

28:57

It's a hard question too.

28:59

And and so really I think this will bring awareness to to what's been done in communities, what's happening now both past and and then present future, all of them.

29:12

And so really awareness of the actual facts.

29:16

There's a lot of you know, really juicy things you could make up about what's happened.

29:22

And and so really to make sure you know we we come on these museums to really give out factual information and this will really be a good way to do that.

29:31

We from the government, we won't tell you what to say, but but we'll help you if if you need something.

29:37

So, so really just to give a lot more transparency than we've had in the past, even when I first started in DOEI worked in a room with a computer that was unplugged from the Internet because they were afraid like somebody would hack into the report I was working on.

29:52

Nobody cared.

29:53

And so it was a really boring report.

29:56

But but we went from that really secret, secret time to to now where, you know, people are talking about it, There's movies being made about it, There's this big public interest.

30:06

So really just to open up the visibility and transparency I think will help with that.

30:12

Amnesia, yeah, that's a great point, Anita.

30:15

And I also think it's going to help just increase public awareness of the testing that took place in different communities.

30:21

I know from our standpoint, you know one of the, the great surprises of last year was we had worked with the Hattiesburg Pocket Museum in Mississippi and they kind of grew out of the shutdown with the COVID pandemic.

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And they basically had a window at the side of a building that they would put little knickknacks and artifacts that people could see from the alleyway.

30:47

And it kind of grew into this really popular place to visit.

30:50

So they reached out to us and we worked with them on highlighting newly weapons testing because that community had been the location of two underground tests.

31:02

And, you know, a lot of people that, you know, came and saw that, started talking with the curator there and explaining like, oh, this got me, talked to my parents.

31:11

I didn't realize that, you know, my father had worked on this test.

31:15

He never really mentioned it.

31:17

And people also just expressing shock and surprise that this was happening in your own backyard and they didn't know about it.

31:23

So even something as small as that, I think we loaned out maybe, you know, 17 or 18 artifacts, most of them were smaller, but telling the complete story really from start of testing to, you know, when you know, testing ceased in the 1990s and it was just a part of raising the, you know, raising awareness in the community of that.

31:47

This is part of your story too, but nobody in that community is talking about it.

31:52

And that gave everyone a chance to discuss it and it brought the community closer together in a lot of ways.

31:58

And I think that is a big part of it as well.

32:00

You can't really talk about the impact in terms of, you know, how this testing may have affected the environment or affected people in the community if you don't talk about how about it being even involved about that community, being involved in that testing or involved in the storage of nuclear material, right?

32:18

So if you don't have that conversation first, no one's going to be able to discuss what that means long term.

32:25

Thank you, Joseph and Anita.

32:26

And I think, you know, I want to go back, Anita, to something that you you said.

32:31

But is a really important emphasis and such an important opportunity and recognition of the power of museums and interpretive Centers for, you know, public history and civic engagement is that the goal of the network is not to dictate a narrative but to really give a space for the full narrative of US atomic legacy.

32:58

And that's again, past, present and future.

33:01

And that the arms are really, you're really spreading your arms very wide open as you shared in that earlier slide with all types of sites as well as communities.

33:13

And I think we've talked about some of a lot of the history is hard and complicated when we're talking at the community level.

33:22

But that's something that also benefits your office as you learn about more communities and have this as a you're uncovering new things too.

33:32

We've talked about tribal communities.

33:34

We've talked about some of these other hidden places or you know, forgotten sites and I don't know if you wanted to share, you know, a little bit more about that.

33:42

And you know what?

33:44

You hope that not only you'll benefit your office and and the agency and the government benefits from, but you know again, what you hope that participating institutions and sites will get from this.

33:57

Yeah, so, so really we've we've had things scattered all over the country, but we've we've not really had a big network where you could connect to the dots.

34:05

So really one of my hopes is through our website and our information, that we'll be able to connect the dots between the communities and also see how the different groups fit together.

34:17

When we went to Washington State, even though I've worked here for 23 years, I've learned so much from the Tribal Interpreter Center or that visit lasted a lot longer than was our agenda because I was just like absorbing everything.

34:33

And and really that helped me do my job better.

34:37

As I know, you know, maybe we could talk about this differently.

34:40

Learning, learning, you know, how this community talks about it, really even helping us give the full story in in a little bit different way.

34:47

The more we learn, the more I can talk more educatedly and and we're really more inclusive whenever I I talk about these things.

34:55

So we really get a benefit from having all these communities together feeding us information, will we hopefully feed that information to them and and really get this whole sharing of information in a way we haven't had before summer.

35:11

Thank you, Anita.

35:12

I was going to jump in with that question as well because I was on the same trip to Washington area and I shared a very similar experience with Anita where going to meet the Wanapum tribe ended up really changing my whole outlook.

35:26

And it was very meaningful and almost spiritual experience for us to be there and hear from them.

35:34

And I think like what Anita was saying, it really helped inform our work.

35:38

And I'm glad that was one of the first listening sessions we held because the the perspective was just very different than what we kind of had thought going into this.

35:47

Which is why also we're holding a lot of listening sessions and opening it up to to your feedback because we want it to serve the community, we want it to serve the network.

35:56

But just wanted to really point out that yeah, meeting the meeting with the tribes and hearing their story, of course, like Laura said, this is a very complicated and can be a very fraught history, specifically with those the Native communities that were impacted by our work.

36:12

So I think that in addition to the Native communities and just communities around the the United States being able to hear their story and amplify it, even if that might, you know, complicate the narrative, it's something that we need to hear because we haven't heard it.

36:26

We, you know, some of these tribes are way out of the way.

36:28

It took us a while to get out to the Wanapum and the Yakima, but we want them to be a part of the network because their messaging was so important and really informed a lot of it.

36:38

And we'll definitely inform how the DOE and how EM moves forward and how we work with those tribes on in different aspects of our work.

36:47

So just wanted to jump in and share that.

36:50

There's a huge benefit, I think to sharing some of the more untold stories of the communities and making sure that the the most accurate information is being shared post the, you know, the secretive nature of our work.

37:03

So just wanted to point that out and thank you.

37:07

And I know that we have folks on the line that are representatives of networks and so maybe it's not necessarily the organization they're currently employed by that would be the right member for the network.

37:22

But would it be fair to say that you all are also open to folks reaching out to you for potentially hosting a listening session if they're in a network or in a community that you all might not have touched yet, that that is another opportunity as well for engagement?

37:40

Yeah, I will talk to anybody that wants to be a part of it.

37:43

There is nobody that I won't take your phone call or answer your e-mail.

37:47

So one thing I was going to just put in the chat was my contact information and then someone will put her contact information in as well.

37:56

So when you look at my last name, it's an I for my last name, not an L So if you type that, I get me.

38:03

If you type in L, you won't get me.

38:05

And yeah, So any group, any entity that's like I, I think maybe I'll be a part.

38:09

We're happy to have a conversation.

38:12

Yeah.

38:12

Yeah.

38:13

And and one thing I wanted to add too with what Summer was saying is that, you know, that's where the, you know, really across the board having the larger museum, the smaller museums, it's a way to share resources that maybe the smaller communities wouldn't have access to.

38:29

And so, you know, helping lift up each other, but also the communities that we're a part of as well.

38:36

You know, even here in Las Vegas, a lot of folks aren't aware that this is a part of our history.

38:41

Vegas is known for a lot of things.

38:43

And you know, unfortunately, a lot of folks don't know that part of Vegas's growth was due to the testing that went on, you know, 65 miles away.

38:52

And then on top of that, I think to the point of it being a complicated history, I think we can all agree, you know, regardless of where you fall on your views of it, it's it's the complicated controversial histories are the ones that need to be discussed.

39:05

Those are the ones we shouldn't shy away from, you know.

39:07

So, you know, though it may be uncomfortable at times, that just reinforces the need to talk about it.

39:15

So it looks like in the chat we might not be able to.

39:20

I get an option for hosts and panelists, but not for everybody in the chat.

39:26

So I will put your information in the in the chat to everybody.

39:32

I think I have that zoom power and I so I will enter that here.

39:41

And as people are thinking, I do want to you know give one more call for any comments or questions in the chat or in the Q&A.

39:53

But you know, from the IMLS perspective, just to share why this is such an important collaboration for us when we learned about the network, is that I think this is a tremendous opportunity for museums again sites and other cultural organizations.

40:15

To have a direct feedback and influence on the federal government and our narrative about the country's history, this is a really unique opportunity to be in partnership with a federal agency.

40:32

I also think that it is Joseph for all of the all of the benefits that you're talking about as a small museum, this content area is also such a special intersection of science, communication and public history.

40:48

So I think bring together a rich network of institution types that can really help share practice.

40:59

And I think in our initial conversations, Anita, you know the the reach of the country's atomic legacy is just so much broader than we really recognize and know.

41:12

And so there's really an opportunity for institutions across the country to find themselves and get resources and help develop interpretation around this really important part of the country's and the world's history.

41:30

Really.

41:32

We talk a lot about there's immigrant stories around our atomic story, and there are very local histories.

41:43

There is a history of innovation here and of politics and policy.

41:50

So there's really a lot of opportunity for institutions to really figure out what the right interpretive place is and how wonderful is it for them to have access to the kinds of resources that the Department of Energy has to offer in terms of support.

42:09

I would also say, and Joseph, you said it quickly, but I want to come back and reemphasize this kind of collaboration can also maybe help provide some good opportunities for partnership on grant making and fundraising IMLS proposals.

42:30

I think this as part of our national narrative.

42:33

These are great opportunities to think about commemorations for the upcoming 250th anniversary, the semi quincennial for institutions who you might not have thought about yourselves as having a place in America 250.

42:50

But this is definitely part of the American story.

42:54

And so I think you know from that perspective, that's really what brought IMLS to the table here to help support and promote this opportunity for our museum constituents.

43:10

So maybe I want to thank Anita, Summer and Joseph for your time.

43:18

I want to thank our attendees for attending today.

43:21

Summer, could I ask you to put up that last slide with you and Anita's contact information so that we have that visual again for folks to grab both live and also on our recording.

43:38

We will be posting this the recording of this session on the IMLS website and attendees will also, I believe receive a link to the recording.

43:49

We do encourage you please to share that with any colleagues or on your respective networks.

43:57

We really think that this is a great opportunity.

44:00

We will be continuing to share this via IMLS platforms as the work moves forward.

44:09

And Anita, I'd love to give you the last words before we close out our session today.

44:17

OK.

44:18

I'd really just like to thank I am a loss.

44:19

When we started this, when we first started talking about this, this was very overwhelming to us because we we do a lot of things well but building a network of museums isn't something we've ever done.

44:32

Felt really daunting but really exciting at the same time and and so whenever I got connected with Laura I was just so grateful.

44:41

So we're really thankful for this partnership and and really excited to talk to people.

44:47

One thing I want to make clear is there's to to be part of the network, there's no cost to the museums and so and if you wanted us to come to one of your places to do a listening session to check you out, there would be no cost to you for that either.

45:01

So we don't really see much upcoming costs for museums and and I want to make sure that people understand that it doesn't have to be like Joe's whole museum pretty much talks about our work and and that's that's amazing.

45:15

I love Joe but some of the smaller museums that maybe just there's a section of our work in your bigger museum, you would still be included in the network so that whenever we put out our our information we would say and this is what you can see at this museum.

45:30

So don't think that you have to solely talk about our work, but it can just be even just a small portion of the story that you tell.

45:38

We we will include you in your network and really we're open to feedback.

45:42

Love to hear from you.

45:45

Happy to work with you.

45:46

And it looks like Joe has one more question or comment.

45:49

I, I, yeah, I just wanted to to comment on something that you had said Anita, which is you know even if you don't feel like you want to be a member, it doesn't mean that there aren't resources for you.

46:00

You know one thing we talked about the example of Mississippi or I know Nita talking about Ohio, even if that's just part of your community, but that might not be the primary purpose of your institution.

46:09

Maybe it's just talking about your your local community or county.

46:14

And this is just that aspect that you want to educate your community on.

46:20

There are resources for you there too.

46:22

So even if it's maybe not, you don't want to feel comfortable being a member.

46:25

You don't feel like it quite fits what you want to do.

46:28

It doesn't mean that you're locked out of any sort of opportunities or resources.

46:32

We want to fill in those gaps for communities regardless of what the museum is, because we find that, you know, such an exciting prospect educating communities that just maybe aren't aware of what happened in the backyard.

46:46

And so it's a a really cool and I think really valuable prospect for sure.

46:55

Wonderful.

46:56

Well, I think that's a beautiful note to close our session on.

46:59

Again, thanks to all of our speakers today.

47:03

Thanks to everyone who made time for you to be here to learn, to ask really great questions.

47:10

And again, we encourage you to follow up with Anita and Summer and their team For more information about the Atomic Legacy Preservation Network.

47:21

And you can always find more information in the recording of this session on [imls.gov](https://www.imls.gov) Thanks everyone so much.

47:29

Have a great rest of your day and we'll see you again soon.

47:33

Thanks everyone.