

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE ART MUSEUM

Museum Division Preconference

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 • Baltimore, MD

This year's preconference will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 and will explore the theme of Social Justice and the Art Museum. Why this theme now? As the country grapples with startling economic, political, and cultural change, and our communities struggle with a range of social and civic issues, from unemployment and homelessness to addiction and illiteracy, the art museum can be a place of respite, dialogue, and action. This preconference is an opportunity to explore the role of the museum and the museum educator as facilitators of civic discourse and agents of social change.

The day will begin at The Baltimore Museum of Art with a keynote address by Joyce Scott, an artist widely admired for her striking creations and biting social commentary on issues such as racism, violence, sexism, and stereotypes. Breakout sessions will present case studies from museums that are addressing current global and social issues such as immigration, sustainability, poverty, violence, and civil rights. The afternoon session will be held in the beautiful galleries of the Walters Art Museum where participants will examine the critical role museums can play as agents of change in fostering values such as equality, equity, and collective responsibility. The collaborations and partnerships presented will provide models for participants to adapt to their own unique audiences, issues, and environments. The day will conclude with a cocktail reception and art-making activity at the fabulous and unforgettable American Visionary Art Museum on the Baltimore waterfront. The cost of the preconference is \$65 for museum division members. Lunch and transportation will be provided.

Registration information and an electronic brochure will be available in January. For questions, please email NAEMuseumpreconference@artbma.org.