

ICOM-CECA REPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2016

USA-CANADA

The major activities rotated around organizing the 2015 annual CECA conference in Washington, DC, “Museum Education and Accessibility: Bridging the Gaps” (September 16-21, 2015).

ICOM-Committee for Education and Cultural Actions (CECA)

MUSEUM EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY: BRIDGING THE GAPS

WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2015

Approved by the CECA Board in 2012 and firstly announced during the Brazilian ICOM general assembly in 2013, the 2015 CECA conference considered accessibility as the degree to which museum collections, programs, and expertise are available to as many people as possible. Organized in the USA for the first time since 1982 and held at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, one of the primary goals of the conference was to increase awareness about ICOM and its educational efforts among USA museum professionals.

The organization of the conference was based on and supported by partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution (SI; the hosting Institution), additional programs, local museums and universities and other organizations¹. The support allowed providing simultaneous interpretations during the conference in American Sign Language, Spanish and Arabic and Communication Access Realtime Translation. French consecutive interpretation for selected participants was provided by SI volunteers.

An initial call for proposals generated more than one-hundred submissions reviewed by three committees of experts in the field (both CECA and not CECA members). In addition to four key-note speakers, eighty-nine abstract submissions were selected for presentations (research and regular papers, posters and short presentations as market-of-ideas). As the conference strived to engage participants in multiple and interactive ways, presentations were delivered not only through lectures but also through panel discussions, market-of-ideas based on interactive tables and a very comprehensive initial poster session.

¹ “Connecting the gems of the Indian Ocean: from Oman to East Africa” (a program of the National Museum of the African Art), The Newseum, the Kreeger Museum, the GW University –both through its Museum Education Program and its University Museum and Textile Museum- the John Hopkins University- Master in Arts and Museum Studies, the National Endowment for the Arts and US-ICOM. Additional local Museum were engaged in the conference (the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Building Museum and the National Gallery of Art).

In the spirit of CECA’s mission, a particular effort was made to engage CECA members who could not participate in person in the conference. All the morning sessions were live-streamed and one entire session was based on google-hangout. This last session allowed professionals from Brazil and Italy to present remotely.

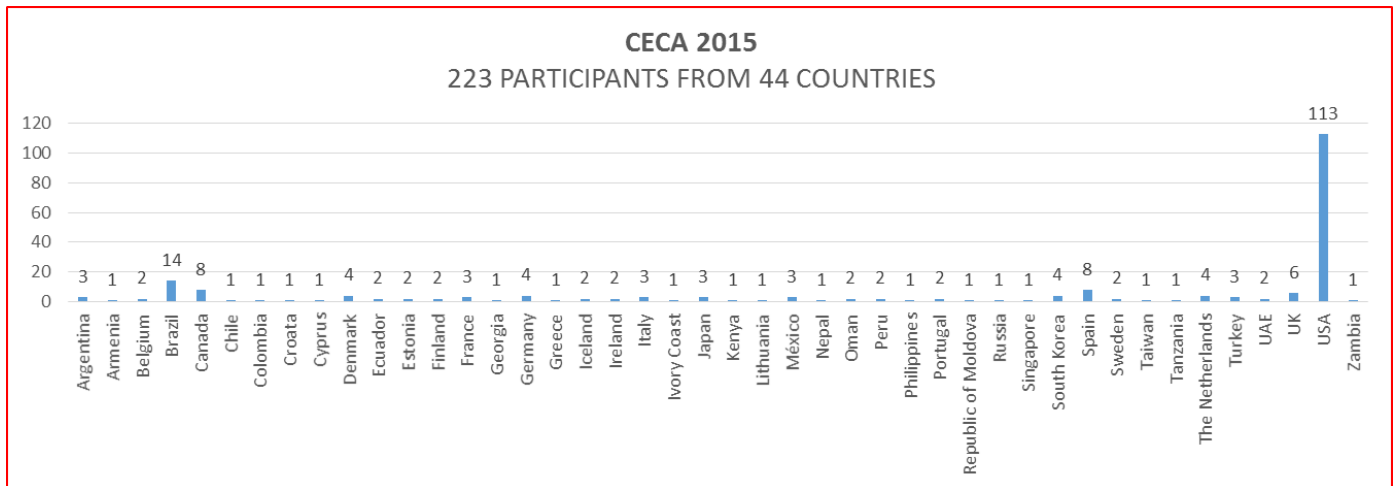
Four different pre-conference workshops were offered both in English and Spanish and post-conference tours were suggested.

Considered as “one the best and most attended CECA conferences,” “MUSEUM EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY: BRIDGING THE GAPS” received enthusiastic reviews and feedback. The CECA Board decided adopting some of the strategies for future conferences (e.g., the initial large poster session to allow immediate mingling and exchanges; a market-of-ideas based on mixing participants at the presenters’ tables; sessions based on alternative new-technology-based media).

Participants: 223 from 44 different countries

ICOM members: 108

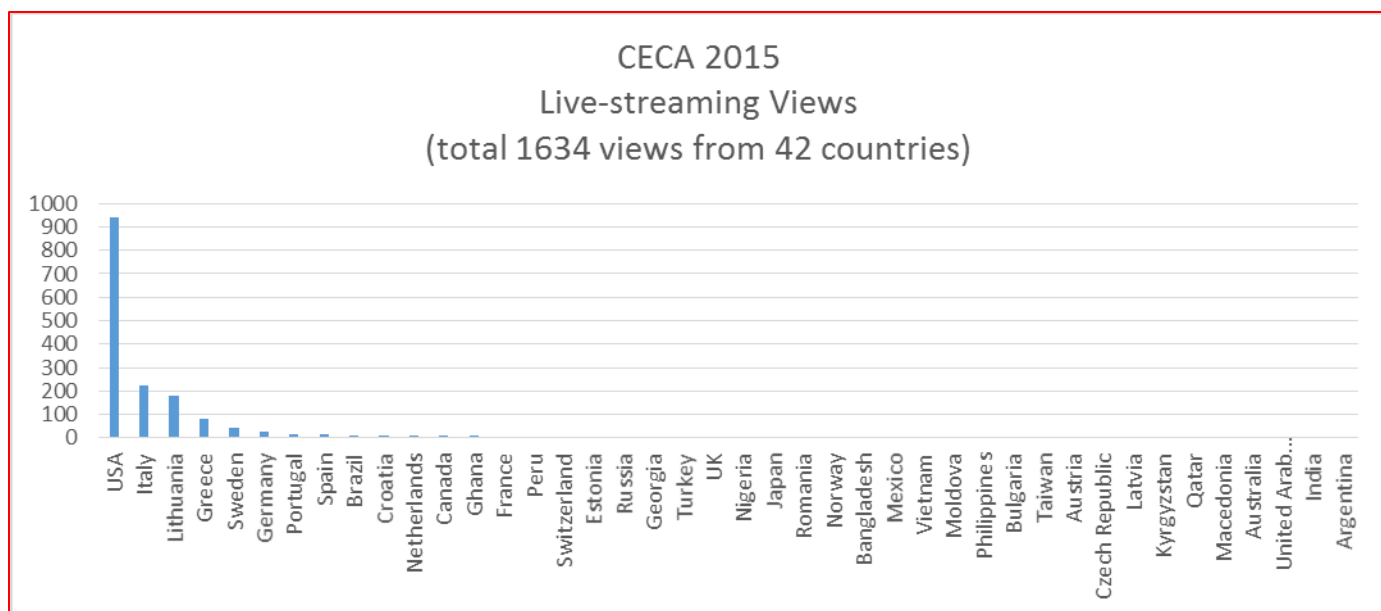
CECA members: 91



Live-streaming:

- **Views:** 1634
- **Participants’ range per day:** 159-66 (average: 101 participants per day)
- **Countries:** 42 (with 16 countries not represented at the conference in Washington)

Google-hangout: views: 76 (September 19th and 20th)



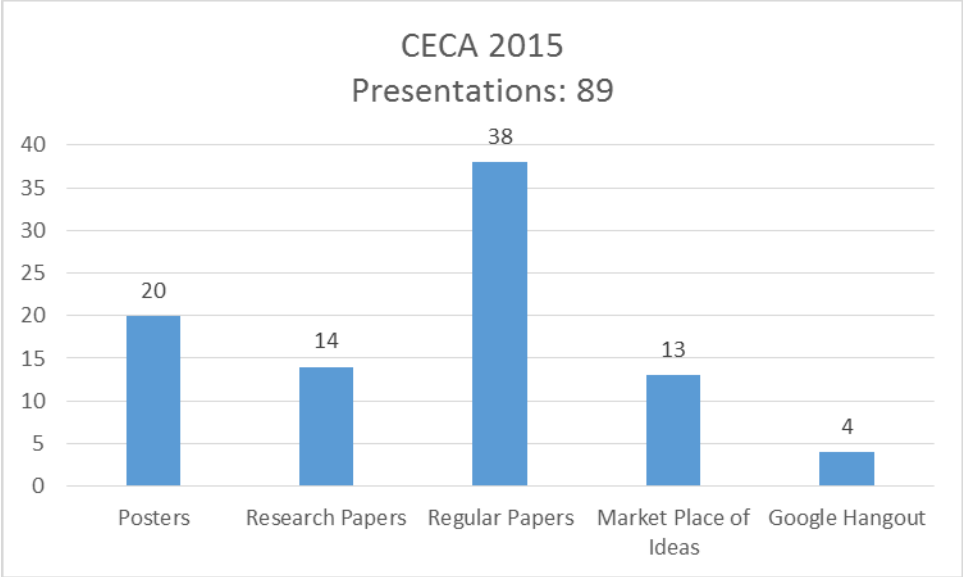
Pre-conference workshops (September 16th):

A) “How-To” Workshop: Connecting Learners to Your Museum through Digital Access –
Language: English; Time: 9:30am-12:30pm; Facilitator: Ashley Naranjo. **Participants: 16**

B) Making museums accessible: learning from experience – Language: English; Time: 9:30am-12:30pm; Facilitator: Luciana Sepúlveda Köptcke. **Participants: 17**

C) Making museums accessible: learning from experience – Language: English; Time: 1:45pm-4:45pm; Facilitator: Luciana Sepúlveda Köptcke. **Participants: 20**

D) Un taller para conectar a los aprendices con su museo digitalmente – Language: Spanish
Time: 1:45pm-4:45pm; Facilitators: Ashley Naranjo and Randal Woodaman. **Participants: 12**



In September 2015 more than two-hundred-fifty museum educators and scholars from sixty countries participated, in person or digitally, in the International Council of Museums-Committee for Education and Cultural Access conference, "Museum Education and Accessibility: Bridging the Gaps." Co-hosted by the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, the initiative was made possible through multiple partnerships, ranging from Smithsonian programs, Universities, museums and federal agencies.

Quotes:

CONGRATULATIONS for organizing such a successful conference.

- 1) This has been one of the best CECA conferences I have ever been (and I have been attending since 1993). You innovated and made the event more engaging and participatory as well as kept a good flow of presentations and speakers. I also enjoyed the study tours and the opportunity to meet colleagues from the Smithsonian. Finally, the lunches and the receptions were special and very much appreciated. Many thanks for being such a wonderful host and good luck with your next project.
- 2) First of all, I would like to congratulate you and your team for the exceptional conference you have organized. It has been a great pleasure to take part on it. Washington has been an extraordinary scenery for the event and we have had the opportunity to enjoy museums, historical buildings and memorials. So thank you very much for your commitment and concern.