

# Virtual Conference 2021

## sustainable futures

24-25th November

### Conference programme

We look forward to welcoming you to the ASDC national conference on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November. This year we're focusing on sustainable futures; how our agile charitable organisations, based in over 50 cities and regions across the UK, can rebuild and adapt for a more resilient, diverse and environmentally sustainable future.

#### Day One: Wednesday 24th November 2021

TIME (GMT)	EVENT		
11.00 - 11.50	<p><b>MAIN STAGE</b></p> <p>Welcome with Shaaron Leverment, Acting CEO at ASDC, Dr Ben Spencer MP, Professor Alice Roberts and Dr Stephen Breslin, ASDC Chair and CEO Glasgow Science Centre</p> <p><b>Opening talk: Environment Engagement post COP26, Hannah Lacey, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</b></p>		
	ROOM 1 Sustainable futures: resilience	ROOM 2 Sustainable futures: diversity	ROOM 3 Sustainable futures: environment
12.00 - 12.50	<p><b>Truth and power</b></p> <p>Dom McDonald, Science Engagement Consultant, Clare James, climate activist &amp; grassroots campaigner and Tudor Gwynn, Eureka!</p> <p>At a time of climate emergency and social inequity, how do we navigate uncomfortable truths that can conflict with corporate funding agendas.</p>	<p><b>Increasing the diversity of your organisation: lessons so far from the BSA's journey</b></p> <p>Katherine Mathieson and Gill Riches, British Science Association</p> <p>Find out from the British Science Association's senior leadership team what has helped them on their journey to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation. Aimed at senior leaders with a focus on HR and whole-organisation actions.</p>	<p><b>Climate action &amp; sustainable development goals for science centres and museums</b></p> <p>Emma Woodham, Glasgow Science Centre Henry McGhie, Curating Tomorrow</p> <p>This session will explore the roles of science centres in climate action, drawing on experiences at COP 26, the Reimagining Museums for Climate Action project, and in wider agendas and initiatives linked to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.</p>
12.50 - 1.30	NERC LUNCH & NETWORKING SPACE		
1.30 - 2.20	<p><b>Science and discovery centre futures: missions and opportunities</b></p> <p>Liv Taylor, The Liminal Space and Ben Rutherford-Orrock, International Centre for Life</p> <p>Following The Liminal Space's extensive research and insights work in collaboration with science centre employees, we're excited to share the missions and opportunities for science centres of the future.</p>	<p><b>Sustaining relevance through diversity, equity, inclusion and access</b></p> <p>Barbara Streicher, Science Center Netzwerk and Vanessa Mignan-Jenkins, Independent consultant and trainer, core advocates at Equity@Ecsite</p> <p>Insights from the international DiverSci community and framework, advocating to get inclusion, equity, diversity and social justice to the top of our strategic agendas.</p>	<p><b>Join the movement to de-carbonise the internet</b></p> <p>Ruth Smith, Sustainable Results Lab</p> <p>Discover the easy-to-implement changes you can make to reduce digital pollution while increasing engagement. Learn how to reduce your digital carbon footprint, and how this supports improvements in accessibility, user experience and engagement.</p>
2.30 - 3.20	<p><b>Dreamachine</b></p> <p>Jennifer Crook, Dreamachine and Donna Speed, We The Curious</p> <p>Find out all about the dream machine, created by Collective Act in collaboration with Turner Prize-winning collective Assemble, Grammy-nominated musician Jon Hopkins and a team of pioneering scientists and technologists as part of Unboxed 2022.</p>	<p><b>The ripple effect: how improving accessibility improves the experience for all</b></p> <p>Ben Ward, Andy Keenan and Rachael Baker, Winchester Science Centre</p> <p>One in five people live with some form of disability or disease. This session discusses small things you can add into existing offers, many implemented with minimal funding, to make a huge impact on people's lives.</p>	<p><b>Climate: action!</b></p> <p>Kris de Meyer, Neuroscientist, UCL Climate Action Unit</p> <p>With COP26 over, the real work begins. What role do science communicators have in the change that needs to happen? How do we move beyond raising awareness to building real agency for climate action?</p>
3.30 - 4.20	<p><b>The new generation of emerging centres</b></p> <p>Tim Rogers, Yorkshire Space &amp; Satellite Centre, Dr Natalie Whitehead and Dr Alice Mills, Exeter Science Centre and Liz Peniston, Eureka! Mersey</p> <p>Three emerging science centres share their story so far, their aspirations and their community-oriented approach - find out more, get inspiration and give advice.</p>	<p><b>Relationship + engagement = impact</b></p> <p>Jen DeWitt, UCL Research Fellow and Cheryl Simpson MBE, Space4Autism</p> <p>Jen DeWitt highlights the engagement strategies from across the ASDC programme EYU4 that have brought depth of impact for participants, and discusses the mutual benefits of partnership work with science and discovery centres with Cheryl Simpson, CEO Space4Autism.</p>	<p><b>The evolution of environmental communication</b></p> <p>Savita Wilmott, Natural History Consortium</p> <p>In this fast-paced session, NHC's Chief Executive will dig into the conference archives to tell a story of how environmental communications went from niche campaigning to daily front page news, and explore some of the current major trends in the field.</p>
4.30 - 5.30	<p><b>MAIN STAGE</b></p> <p><b>Keynote speech: Who owns science?</b></p> <p>Angela Saini, award-winning British science journalist, broadcaster and author</p> <p>The way scientific history is told usually foregrounds developments in Western Europe over the last few hundred years. But what - and who - is forgotten? Science journalist and author Angela Saini asks how different our understanding might be without these historic blinkers.</p>		
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#### Day Two: Thursday 25th November 2021

TIME (GMT)	EVENT		
11.00 - 11.50	<p><b>MAIN STAGE</b></p> <p><b>Keynote speech: Reframing the legacies and futures of science centres and museums</b></p> <p>Dr Emily Dawson, Associate Professor, Department of Science and Technology Studies, UCL</p> <p>Drawing on research from multiple research-practice partnerships, Emily Dawson illustrates how different ways of framing equity in Informal Science Learning (ISL) have different affordances &amp; limitations for science, ISL institutions, practitioners, potential audiences and society.</p>		
	ROOM 1 Sustainable futures: resilience	ROOM 2 Sustainable futures: diversity	ROOM 3 Sustainable futures: environment
12.00 - 12.50	<p><b>Mindsets + missions</b></p> <p>Alexis Mannion and Kathrine Bancroft, UKRI, Sally Colvin, Museums Association, Sarah Douglas, The Liminal Space and Shaaron Leverment, ASDC</p> <p>UKRI provide insights of their emerging strategy for Public Engagement and their current cultural engagement activities. Then join the Museums Association, ASDC and The Liminal Space to discuss opportunities and future collaborations to realise the 'Mindsets + Missions' set out by the recent research.</p>	<p><b>Open for all</b></p> <p>Fiona Slater, Laura Southall, Kate Chatfield and Danielle Bryers, Science Museum Group</p> <p>Meeting the vision and values of the Science Museum Group but staying responsive to local communities and contexts? We don't have all the answers but SMG are keen to share the learning from the creation of four Open for All Steering Groups.</p>	<p><b>Sustainable food: public attitudes and engagement in the UK, Brazil and India</b></p> <p>Christopher Whitby, National Railway Museum and Bridget McKenzie, Flow Associates</p> <p>Food sustainability: attitudes, motivations, awareness and solutions to engagement.</p>
12.50 - 1.30	STFC LUNCH & NETWORKING SPACE		
1.30 - 2.20	<p><b>A sector tool to support resilience in COVID recovery</b></p> <p>Ben Johnson, Graphic Science and Ian Simmons, Science Centres International</p> <p>As we face a period of financial recovery are you considering all the ways in which your science centre can build resilience for the future?</p>	<p><b>The future for our science centres and museums</b></p> <p>ASDC Emerging Leaders: Ellie Fraser-Marsh, We The Curious, Andrew Farrer, Cambridge Science Centre and Clare Davy, The Francis Crick Institute</p> <p>Lightning talks from emerging leaders from our sector provoke on their visions of the future of our network.</p>	<p><b>Facing the difficult truths of the climate emergency; apocalyptic disaster or transformational moment in history?</b></p> <p>Caroline Hickman, Psychotherapist and lecturer, University of Bath</p> <p>Avoiding a naïve, patronising and potentially psychologically damaging approach - why we must provide space for eco-anxiety in our environmental communication.</p>
2.30 - 3.20	<p><b>Cultural shifts in science centres and museums</b></p> <p>Linda Conlon and David Jones, International Centre for Life</p> <p>How cultural shifts have been affected/exacerbated by the pandemic and the changes we need to make for the future.</p>	<p><b>Looking outside the sector for inspiration: youth work and play work principles for science communication</b></p> <p>Siôn Edwards, The Venture CJ Bishop, National Space Centre</p> <p>Enhancing our science communication, explore links with youth work principles, community engagement, and how we can excite and spark exploration through play.</p>	<p><b>Sustainability: Spot the difference</b></p> <p>Chris Dunford, ASDC Environmental Sustainability Chair Duncan East, Marwell Zoo Emily Stone, Edinburgh Science Festival Roddy Skinner, We The Curious</p> <p>Sustainability in action in three different contexts: a zoo, a science centre and a festival, exploring the commonalities and differences, collectively finding solutions to the sustainability problems of the session attendees.</p>
3.30 - 4.20	<p><b>Recovery, repair and renewal</b></p> <p>Bernard Donoghue, The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)</p> <p>What lies ahead for visitor attractions in 2022? This session explores new visitor trends and innovations looking at examples from organisations that have adapted and found new ways to embrace change.</p>	<p><b>Dialogue, dialogue, dialogue! Getting started and making progress with diversity and inclusion</b></p> <p>Lenna Cumberbatch, Diversity and Inclusion Strategist</p> <p>Keeping open lines of communication is essential when on a diversity and inclusion journey; dialogue is key to defining and delivering your goals and how you engage your whole organisation.</p>	
4.30 - 5.45	<p><b>MAIN STAGE</b></p> <p><b>Closing keynote: Webb a countdown to launch: T-30 days! Dr Olivia Jones, Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Science centres and museums quiz, hosted by ASDC and Sam Langford</b></p>		
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