

TAM Scholarship Blog Post 2023

I had an amazing time attending the 2023 Tennessee Association of Museums Conference in Memphis! I am so incredibly thankful to have received a scholarship to go, because the experience was really rewarding. I was able to meet professionals in my field from all over the state.

All of the panels I attended were fantastic, specifically *Memphis Strong, Now and Forever: Curating an Exhibit About LGBTQ+ History in the South* was a highlight of the week. Hearing the presenters speak about their experiences and being able to have an open discussion with my colleagues about recent changes in legislation was very cathartic.

I was very impressed by how many museums brought different resources to give out. Every institution did a fantastic job of sharing what they could with us, including exhibition planning timelines, social stories, and children's activities. I got so much valuable documentation that I could bring back to my museum, and use moving forward in my career.

During the trip, I was able to attend eight different museums, some with TAM and some on my own. Many of the employees recognized my conference badge and struck up a conversation with me. It was so wonderful to get to interact with peers at a wide range of organizations.

Overall, coming to TAM was wonderful. I got to network with so many brilliant educators that I hope to keep in touch with professionally, as I continue to navigate the museum industry.

Sarah Skupien

Frist Art Museum