

Summer Institute in Museum Studies at Carleton University Program Itinerary 2025

Co-led by Curatorial Studies faculty conveners Alexandra Kahsenni:io Nahwegahbow and Monica Eileen Patterson, each day will cover a dedicated topic, with leading expertise provided by a guest contributor. The day will follow a workshop format and will include a lecture, discussion, and guided site visit or tour. A bibliography relevant to the topics covered will be circulated. This five-day course will close with a presentation and discussion session led by participants.

Practical Details

When: Monday, August 11th to Friday, August 15th, 2025

Where: All Institute workshops are held in the ICSLAC seminar room (SP201D, St. Patrick's Building, Carleton University) and run from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. (The Wednesday morning workshop will be held on-site at the Ottawa Art Gallery, not at Carleton University).

Off-site Visits: Museum visits and tours take place between 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Transportation to the site is provided if required. Some programming details may be subject to change. Participants will be advised by email in the event of any such change.

DAY 1: MONDAY, AUGUST 11th, 2025

Topic: Curatorial Practice in Museums, Children and Youth as Participants and Contributors to Museums

Morning Introductions by Dr. Monica Patterson and Alexandra Nahwegahbow

Speaker: **Dr. Monica Patterson** (she/her) is Associate Professor and Assistant Director of Curatorial Studies in the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art, and Culture at Carleton University. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and History and a certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Patterson is author of several articles and co-editor of two books: *Curating Difficult Knowledge: Violent Pasts in Public Places* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) and *Anthrohistory: Unsettling Knowledge and Questioning Discipline* (University of Michigan Press, 2011). Her latest project, "A New, Critical Children's Museology" identifies and develops approaches to producing exhibit content not just for or about children, but by and with children across the globe. It explores how children can change curatorial practice and their communities via active participation and exhibit co-creation.

Afternoon Site Visit: [Canadian Museum of History](#)

- [Grand Hall, First Peoples Hall, Canadian History Hall, Stanley Hunt Monument](#)
Tour with Keisha Cuffie (she/her), Curator of installation *Reclaiming Leisure: Black Life as Celebration*, Alexis Boyle (they/them) Learning Specialist, Audiences, Advancement

and Digital, Sonya Gray (she/her), Curator, Indigenous Histories and Contemporary Cultures, North

DAY 2: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12th, 2025

Topic: The Accessibility Journey: Creating GLAMorous Access

Morning Session: Institute Workshop

- Conveners: Dr. Monica Patterson, Alexandra Nahwegahbow
- Speakers: **Carla Ayukawa** (she/her) is a Designer, Educator, and Researcher with over 20 years of experience in developing museum exhibitions and experiential environments. She has extensive expertise in inclusive museological principles and collaborative community engagement. She is a Master of Design, Curatorial Studies, and NSERC Research Education and Accessible Design Innovation graduate where her research focused on creating inclusive object narratives for accessible museum exhibitions. She is recognized for her work related to socially inclusive exhibition development, sensory museology, and accessible museum practices. She has also played a significant role in the interpretation and presentation of historic narratives in the National Capital Region and contributed to numerous exhibitions at national and municipal museums. She is currently an Exhibition Development and Research Officer for the City of Ottawa Museums and Historic sites.
Kim Kilpatrick (she/her) Kim Kilpatrick is a professional storyteller, arts events coordinator, and accessibility consultant who is totally blind. As far back as she can remember, she wanted to love museums and did love them when they were accessible to her. This was not often the case. Things are improving but we need to work much more to have them be more accessible and welcoming to people who are blind. Kim has consulted for Ingenium museums, Museum of Nature, City of Ottawa museums, Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa Art Gallery and many theatre and other arts organizations. Kim has created and performed four one-woman storytelling shows about blindness, guide dogs, and advocacy

Afternoon Site Visit: [Ingenium Centre](#) and [Canada's Science and Technology Museum](#)

- [*Sound by Design Exhibit, Medical Sensations Exhibit, Ingenium Centre Collections*](#)
Tours by Lisa LeBlanc (she/her), Director General Canadian Science and Technology Museum, Dr. Emily Gann (she/her), Director of Curatorial Division, Dr. Tom Everett (he/him), Curator of Communication Technologies, Sarah Jaworski (they/them), Assistant Curator Communications and Digital Technologies

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13th, 2025

Topic: Museums and Galleries as Possible Sites for Liberation and Social Transformation, Activism

Morning Session: Workshop and Guided Tour at the [Ottawa Art Gallery](#)

- Conveners: Dr. Monica Patterson, Alexandra Nahwegahbow
- Speakers: **Cara Tierney** (they/them) Raised in Tiotenactokte|Skanawetsy|Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue QC, Tierney is a Scottish/Irish/Italian/white/settler, trans* creative/educator/consultant/curator whose work sits at the intersection of art and education, oriented toward collective liberation. Currently a Professor in the University of Ottawa's Visual Arts department, over the last 20 years they have delivered and designed both arts, and arts-based workshops on unceded Algonquin land, in and around so-called Ottawa, approaching their work as an endless series of moments from which to learn, bridge creativity, communities, and share knowledge in the service of social transformation. They are currently working on completing a PhD in Cultural Mediations at Carleton University where their research focuses on the pedagogical capacity of art and creativity to foster gender liberation.

Afternoon Site Visit: [Bytown Museum](#)

- [Bytown Museum Collections](#)
Tour by SC Ruszala (she/her), Visitor and Community Engagement Manager, Claire Park (she/her), Programming Coordinator.

DAY 4: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14th, 2025

Topic: Expressing implicatedness in exhibition: A case study from Untold Canada

Morning Session: Institute Workshop

- Conveners: Dr. Monica Patterson, Alexandra Nahwegahbow
- Speakers: **Dr. Trina Cooper-Bolam** (she/her) A settler living and working on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabe territory, Trina Cooper-Bolam is an independent curator/exhibition designer and Adjunct Research Professor with ICSLAC and Canadian Studies at Carleton University, and a former Banting Postdoctoral Researcher with Concordia. Cooper-Bolam earned her PhD in Cultural Mediations from Carleton in 2020. Previously, she held senior positions at the Aboriginal Healing and Legacy of Hope Foundations—organizations working to transform the legacy of residential schools. Cooper-Bolam was also a key contributor to the Survivor-led Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall exhibition at Algoma University (2023). Interpreting the constructs 'museum' and 'exhibition' liberally, Cooper-Bolam works to manifest hidden and erased histories and materialities, particularly in the context of difficult knowledge. In examining, experimenting with, and applying collaborative transdisciplinary research-led methods of

exhibitionary inquiry, Cooper-Bolam contributes to a growing practice of exhibition-as-research and research-creation.

Afternoon Site Visit: [Osgoode Township Museum](#)

- [Community Gallery](#)
Tours by James Jensen (he/him), Executive Director, Sarah Verreault (she/her), Collections Officer

DAY 5: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th, 2025

Topic: Decolonization in the GLAM Sector

- Conveners: Dr. Monica Patterson
- Speakers: **Alexandra Nahwegahbow** (she/her) is Anishinaabe and Kanien'kehá:ka and a member and citizen of Whitefish River First Nation with maternal roots in Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory. Born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario, Nahwegahbow recently held the position of Associate Curator of Historical Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada and is now a faculty member at Carleton University, cross-appointed with the Department of History and the Institute of Comparative Studies in Literature, Art, and Culture. Nahwegahbow specializes in visual and material culture from her traditional territories in the Great Lakes region. She has experience working with ancestral belongings in museums and galleries internationally and has worked with contemporary Indigenous artists on a range of creative and curatorial projects.

Afternoon Site Visit: [Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centretown/Carleton University Art Gallery Centretown, National Gallery of Canada](#)

- [CDCC and Carleton University Art Gallery](#)
Tours by Kathryn Desplanque (she/her), Academic and Public Programs Specialist, Mara Brown (she/her), Director of Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centretown
- [Exhibitions and Galleries](#)
Tours by Alexandra Nahwegahbow