

Finding Compelling Narratives: Connecting visitors with the science in their lives

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This workshop aims to generate a collaborative discussion around the importance of narrative and story in exhibitions and the culturally diverse methods and practices employed amongst ASPAC members in developing. This conversation will provide an excellent opportunity for cross organisational skill sharing, learning and enrichment.

The democratisation of information has changed the landscape of science engagement for physical science centres. We are more than providers of intriguing demonstrations or models of science, more than explainers of scientific phenomena. Especially for less connected demographics like teenagers and young adults, we can provide more meaningful experiences. Science centres are now capable of being socially conscious mediators of conversation around important topics.

Workshop participants will be involved in collaborative brainstorming around a range of disparate objects and science demos supplied to the workshop. Each will be examined for what they might mean to different people rather than simply what they are. In this cooperative space the various cultural perspectives will create rich experiences and provide ample opportunity to see things from different angles.

Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre's latest exhibition *Born or Built? Our Robotic Future* explores our relationship with technology and the ethical considerations that underpin it. This exhibition goes beyond exploring the technology in our everyday lives and the science phenomena found within, to ask the visitors about their relationship with technology and the kind of world and future they would like to have with it. This exhibition highlights the important social relationships science has and invests the visitor more personally in the content.

Finding the narrative in our exhibitions adds meaning and connection to science for our visitors, ultimately creating a richer experience and a more engaged public.