Before You Go

Familiarize yourself with the program online. Take the time to decide which events you would like to attend and which presenters you would like to listen to or meet.

Download the Sched app or sync it with your online calendar. Plan your days in advance and determine whether events of interest might overlap.

Update your resume or CV. Consider bringing copies in case you meet potential employers!

Update your social media accounts with your current contact information - including LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

Bring business cards - and distribute them! And make sure you have a safe place to store cards you receive. No time to print? Consider making a digital business card so people can scan a QR code to save your contact information.

During the Conference

Network. Make an effort to meet new people. Ask what they think about the conference, what they’re hoping to learn, and why they decided to attend. If you get their business card, jot down a few keywords about them to jog your memory later.

Take notes during the sessions. It’s surprising how fast the conference will fly by, and you don’t want to forget everything you’ve learned!

Ask questions. Conferences are a great opportunity to talk to other professionals and learn more about the aspects of the field that interest you. Asking questions during or after a talk is a great way to learn about a topic and network with the presenter.

Oh, and..... Have FUN! Don’t get too wrapped up in networking and rushing from one event to another - try to enjoy it!

ATTIRE

⇒ The AIC Annual Meeting attire is business casual, including the evening events.

⇒ Check the weather before you go.

⇒ Dress in layers and be prepared for overly air-conditioned rooms.

Check out the Emerging Museum Professionals blogpost about how to dress for conferences!

GET INVOLVED!

⇒ Blog for Conservators Converse. Blogging about talks is great way to distill what you’ve learned and share it with colleagues who cannot attend.

⇒ Tweet / Post / ‘Gram it! Find the conference hashtag and post about your experience and what you’ve learned.

⇒ Stay informed! Attend specialty group business meetings and the general membership business meeting to learn what’s happening in the field and in AIC.

First time attending a conference? If you’re nervous about meeting new people at such a large event, check out Lisa Petrilli’s “Introvert’s Guide to Attending a Conference.” Revised 2017