



MPMA POLICY ON ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

Background

The MPMA Advocacy Committee was formed in 2005

- It provides a sounding board for MPMA on issues critical to the larger museum community
- The committee typically meets by email or conference call and as issues arise
- Letters from the committee go out over the signature of the MPMA president
- The Advocacy Chair has usually been a board member, but this is not a requirement
- Committee members are senior members of MPMA's regional museum community

Policy on Advocacy Engagement

The MPMA Advocacy Committee regularly engages regional and national issues that are important to the museum field, working with state, regional and national organizations to promote funding initiatives, favorable legislation, and best practices in fulfilling the MPMA mission to advocate excellence in the field.

- It is the policy of the MPMA that this proactive engagement be encouraged and sustained, and that the committee present an agenda for these issues to the MPMA board annually and also provide periodic updates to the membership on the status of each issue.

The MPMA Advocacy Committee is frequently called upon to lend MPMA support or endorsement to specific issues that arise at individual institutions within the region. Because these issues often involve the legal and political systems, the committee must maintain an independent and impartial view when deciding whether to recommend that MPMA become involved. The most common issues relate to funding and program cuts proposed by state governments, and MPMA has traditionally been supportive of budget testimony. Other issues often relate to governance decisions or collections disputes.

- It is the policy of the MPMA that the Advocacy Committee will not become involved with issues relating to specific institutions unless requested to in writing by authorized representatives of the organization, or as noted below.
- It is the policy of the MPMA that if an institution-specific issue relates to museum standards or ethics the Advocacy Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee that MPMA communicate concerns and best practices to the governing body without a formal request from them.

- Every effort should be made to review all aspects of the issue before a recommendation is made to the Executive Committee regarding MPMA support or endorsement towards resolving an issue. This means that MPMA will hope to hear all perspectives involved in an issue, not just from those requesting MPMA's involvement.