

I am Nancy Merchant Jimenez, an aspiring museum professional grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2025 WMA conference through the Art Wolf Scholarship. Although 2025 has ended, I wanted to reflect on this event that had a profound impact on my journey to becoming a museum professional.

I attended the 2025 WMA conference in Reno, Nevada. Speaking with Garret Barmore, Museum curator of W. M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum, and going to sessions like "Decolonizing Science Narratives in Museums" with Catherine Diaz, Executive Director of Columbia Play Project, and "Tending the Fire in Dark Moon Times" with Noelle Kahanu; their words of wisdom and experience, despite it having been three months since that conference, has left a great impact on me. The conference provided me with insight into the museums and organizations within WMA, and a clear vision for where I will continue my career path. Museum professionals coming from states such as California, Ohio, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, Utah, Canada, and locals gathered together and shared knowledge and experiences. I am motivated to go to the next WMA conference in Salt Lake City this year and look forward to seeing any new projects that bring hope, inspiration, and educational impacts to the public.

I would like to say thank you to the Nevada Museums Association for giving me the opportunity to go to the 2025 Annual WMA conference in Reno. This experience gave me insight into the museum community I am a part of, has helped shape my career path, and has shown me the immense help museums provide to our communities. For any aspiring museum professionals, I would recommend going to WMA conferences. Speaking with museum professionals, hearing their experiences and stories gave me inspiration to find ways to help my community through museums, and made my love for museums grow. It has left a great impact on me, and I feel closer to achieving my dream of becoming a museum professional who can inspire and teach my community. I am truly grateful for being a part of this amazing Museum community and for connecting with the wonderful people who are creating lasting impacts.

With best regards,

Nancy Merchant - Jimenez