



*The Connecticut Humanities Council invites you to*  
**FOSTERING A PARTICIPATORY CULTURE AND INSPIRING PARTICIPATION**  
**WITH NINA SIMON AND**  
*AMERICAN CIVILITY WITH*  
**JIM LEACH, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

**Monday, April 18, 2011**  
**Connecticut Historical Society Museum & Library**  
**1 Elizabeth Street**  
**Hartford, CT 06105**

Visitor participation is a hot topic in the contemporary world of museums, historical societies, libraries, arts agencies, and other cultural organizations. How can your institution become a more personal, dynamic, collaborative place for visitor engagement? How can you engage your audience as contributors and co-creators in meaningful, mission-relevant ways?

In a two-part workshop, Nina Simon, author of *The Participatory Museum*, will share practical techniques for inviting community members to collaborate with cultural institutions.

Plus, join National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jim Leach in a lunchtime talk on the importance of civility in public discourse. "Civilization requires civility," says Leach. "Words matter. Polarizing attitudes can jeopardize social cohesion."

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**10 a.m. - Noon**

***Part I: Fostering a Participatory Culture***  
**Nina Simon**

Join Nina Simon for a general introduction to audience participation focusing on the big ideas affecting organizations of all types. Using examples from institutions of all shapes and sizes, Simon discusses the potential for organizations to be more relevant, dynamic, essential places. This talk includes ample time for Q&A, and provides examples and images to relate specifically to individual questions.

**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

***Lunch Program: American Civility***  
**Jim Leach, NEH Chairman**

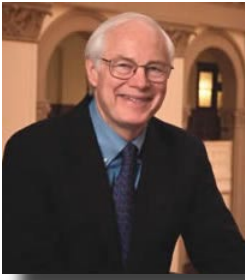
NEH Chairman Jim Leach addresses the subject of hate speech and its dangers. He writes that America today is faced with "a political setting that is bordering on a civility crisis at home and a civilization crisis abroad." His talk focuses on helping initiate discussions about the state of American civility today.

**1:30-4 p.m.**

***Part II: Inspiring Visitor Participation***  
**Nina Simon**

Join Nina Simon in a **hands-on workshop designed for museums** looking to increase visitor engagement and participation around artifacts. Participants will leave with new creative tools and ideas for soliciting visitor responses, encouraging social experiences around exhibits and collections, and connecting with visitors' individual interests. The workshop focuses on developing ways to activate artifacts as "social objects"—nexuses for dialogue and participation.





**J**im Leach is the ninth chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He previously served thirty years representing southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial

Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and founded and co-chaired the Congressional Humanities Caucus.



**N**ina Simon has been described as a “museum visionary” by *Smithsonian Magazine*. She is the principal of Museum 2.0, a design firm that works with cultural institutions worldwide on innovative projects that invite visitors to engage as collaborators and active participants. Simon is the author of *The Participatory Museum* and the popular Museum 2.0 blog. She is on the board of the Center for the Future of Museums and she has served on advisory committees for IMLS and AAAS projects about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and the future of museums and libraries.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/fkFmXm> or complete the form below and return to the CHC. Please RSVP by April 13, 2011.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will attend the morning and luncheon program

Morning program with Nina Simon and Luncheon program with Jim Leach (\$15 - includes box lunch)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will attend the afternoon program

Afternoon workshop with Nina Simon (\$40)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

*Organizations may register up to two participants for the afternoon workshop. Additional registrants may be added to a wait list and will be admitted if space allows. Please email Melissa Diaz - [melissa@ctculture.org](mailto:melissa@ctculture.org) - to add names to the wait list.*

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT TYPE**

Check (Payable to: Connecticut Humanities Council)       Visa     Mastercard     Amex     Discover

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Printed name as it appears on card

Signature

Mailing address: Connecticut Humanities Council, 37 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
 For questions, please contact Melissa Diaz: P: 860.685.7583 E: [melissa@ctculture.org](mailto:melissa@ctculture.org) F: 860.685.7597

To register online visit <http://bit.ly/fkFmXm>