



Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network

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AAM Annual Meeting in Boston
At Your Assistance:
Technology Resources for Museums Small and Not-so-Small

N-TEN Presentation: Key Points

1. What is the benefit of connecting with nonprofits from other disciplines?

- ♣ A museum-specific organization is great for the issues or challenges that are fairly unique to museums - kiosks, online exhibits, digitization software, etc.
- ♣ An umbrella group such as N-TEN is useful for exposing museum staff to best practices and new ideas in areas that cut across nonprofit sectors, or areas where other groups are ahead.
- ♣ There is also much that others can learn from museums' experience.

Examples:

- ♣ Online fundraising cuts across sectors. But lessons from other nonprofits that advocacy and volunteering messages can increase fundraising could translate to improved fundraising outcomes for museums.
- ♣ Should museums have artists' or curators' blogs? What lessons can be learned from other organizations? What are the potential benefits and cautions?
- ♣ Should museums use adopt the use of source software? What are the benefits and drawbacks? What open source software is out there?
- ♣ A small museum needs to develop a training plan for staff members on how to use productivity software as well as specialized museum focused applications. What is the best approach? How do other nonprofits of similar size train their staff? What works best?
- ♣ A small museum has a small local area network to support its basic operations. It isn't quite large enough to hire a full-time in-house IT person. What do other nonprofits of similar budget size do? Do they hire part-time staff or contract with a consultant? What are the pros and cons of the approaches? How to find a reliable consultant or where to advertise a job opening?
- ♣ Museums are ahead of most nonprofits in the use of rich media. What lessons can others learn from them?

2. About N-TEN – Programs and Services

- ♣ N-TEN aspires to a world where all nonprofits can skillfully and confidently use technology to meet community needs for responsive and humane social services, social equity and opportunity, a healthy natural environment, or the challenge and illumination of art.
- ♣ N-TEN's membership is made up of both individuals and organizations, including nonprofits, technology support organizations, consultants, and vendors, who want to identify peers, connect with clients, develop professional support networks, and share information and resources.
- ♣ Why they join
- ♣ N-TEN's programs and services include:

The Nonprofit Technology Conference (NTC), the largest event focusing on nonprofits' use of technology. <http://www.nten.org/ntc>

A series of Regional Conferences held throughout the year. <http://www.nten.org/conferences>

501 Tech Clubs, informal groups that meet monthly in dozens of cities across the U.S. <http://www.nten.org/501techclub>

TechFinder, an online directory of technology service providers for nonprofits, a service of N-TEN in partnership with TechSoup.org. <http://www.techfinder.org>

Webinars, online workshops on hot topics in nonprofit technology <http://www.nten.org/webinars>

N-TEN Reports where N-TEN collaborates with partners from around the U.S. and beyond to develop essays, articles, research studies and other original documents <http://www.nten.org/reports>

N-TEN members receive significant discounts on registration and sponsorship fees at all N-TEN events as well as for services and products from N-TEN's partners <http://www.nten.org/discounts>

A range of online resources including listservs, blog, email newsletter, and handouts/resources from conferences and presentations.

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