



center for advancement of
informal science education

CAISE and the National Science Foundation AISL Program

Practice-and-Research Convening

January 31 and February 1, 2013

Donovan House

Woodward and Bernstein Rooms

Washington, DC

AGENDA

JANUARY 31: DAY 1

8:15 am: Breakfast Buffet and Informal Introductions

9:00 am: Welcome and Convening Overview

- Jamie Bell, Principal Investigator and Director, CAISE
- Al DeSena, Program Director, NSF
- Dennis Schatz, Program Director, NSF
- Rick Duschl, Division Director, Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL, NSF)
- Vera Michalchik, SRI
- Julie Johnson, J2R2 Leadership & Change Associates, LLC

Introductory Icebreaker

10:00 am: Break

10:15 am: DISCUSSION 1, facilitated by Julie Johnson

- What are the kinds of decisions that informal science education (ISE) practitioners and researchers make that affect the nature and dynamics of their collaborative relationships?
- How and to what extent does the work of practitioners and researchers influence each other's decision-making?
- What mechanisms, structures, and supports are necessary for or required for enhancing the dialogue--either new or existing?
- What are the barriers and/or challenges to better dialogue between practice and research?

12:00 pm: Working lunch / Discussion

1:15 pm: DISCUSSION 2, facilitated by Julie Johnson

- Is it important and feasible that the ISE field and/or its sectors (e.g. science centers/museums, media, gaming, after school) have research agendas?
- Is a research agenda the only or best way to characterize what is needed?
- What kinds of issues or questions would a research agenda help us address?
- What would it take to have a research agenda for the field writ large, or for individual sectors?

3:00 pm: Break

3:15 pm: DISCUSSION 3, facilitated by Julie Johnson

This discussion will be on a topic generated or driven in some way by the participants. Potential topics could include:

- The distinctions and similarities between research and evaluation
- Best practices for practitioner-researcher partnerships
- Is there enough research going on in ISE and how would we characterize the current quality? How would we increase output and quality?
- Another topic identified by convening participants

5:00 pm: Adjourn for the day

6:00 pm: Working dinner (paid for, for out-of-own participants) — Zentan Restaurant, Donovan House Hotel

FEBRUARY 1: DAY 2

8:15 am: Working Breakfast Buffet

8:55 am: Logistics and reimbursement instructions, led by Kalie Sacco

9:00 am: Opening Discussion — Reflections on Day 1, introduced by Jamie Bell and Al DeSena, Facilitated by Julie Johnson

- Representative group of participant respondents
- Reflections from NSF Program Officers

10:00 am: Practice-and-Research and CAISE Infrastructure Work, led by Trevor and Darrell Porcello, facilitated by Julie Johnson



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- Part 1: **Case studies** (15 min total).
- Part 2: **Through the lens of the landscape that these examples portray, what do you want from the new informalscience.org?** (10 min)
- Part 3: **Small Group Discussions #1 - Metadata** (30 min). How do you want to search the Informal Commons?
- Part 4: **Small Group Discussions #2 - Evidence** (30 min). What do you need from a website with research? What topics are missing from the evidence wiki? What kinds of synthesis or other information is useful? What topics would you see having value for ongoing group discussion?
- Part 5: **Blue Sky Thinking** (15 min), facilitated by Julie Johnson.

12:00 pm: Working Lunch

1:00 pm: CAISE and additional Practice-and-Research Activities, introduced by Kevin Crowley and Jamie Bell, facilitated by Julie Johnson

What might CAISE do to follow-up on this gathering — e.g. online forums,
writing, more convenings, other ideas?

2:30 pm: Harvesting Insights and Reflections, facilitated by Julie Johnson
What are the take-away messages from the last two days? Can we group them by to/for whom the message is meant? (e.g., for “the field,” CAISE, NSF and others.)

3:30 pm: Closing and Thanks, Jamie Bell, Kevin Crowley, Julie Johnson, Al DeSena

3:45 pm: Wrap Up — Participants' Personal Reflections, led by Julie Johnson

4:00 pm: Adjourn