# Inspiring Community Connection

## By Britton Kang

While attending the CWAM 2025 Annual Meeting this last April, I participated in many well thought out sessions. I really enjoyed the Fostering Pride in Aurora, CO session presented by the Aurora History Museum. I was so impressed by the way they were able to take regular exhibits and programs and elevate them to a unique experience that was centralized around their community.

Keith Outcelt, Education Curator, discussed their exhibit called Mosaic of Cultures. This exhibit highlights a community in their city and every two years they rotate through different communities. Aurora is well known for being one of the most diverse and populated cities in Colorado and this exhibit is great way to explore all of the different cultures that makes this city so unique. I was so inspired on how they executed their grand openings for each iteration of this exhibit. The desire to truly highlight and celebrate these individual communities is extraordinary and made me think of different ways that I could highlight local communities relative to my local museum work.

Deborah Teany, Children's Education Specialist, showcased the many different children's programs that she has been developing. From homeschool days to preschool programs to adults with disabilities programs, Deborah's attention to detail and inclusivity was eye opening and inspiring. Deborah was a prime example of being observant to local needs and creating programing that could fill those needs. It really made me think about what needs I could be filling that my community could benefit from.

Emily Miner, Adult Education Specialist, was also very observant about community needs but took a very different approach to filling those needs. She understood that often times after work adults may be very reluctant to come to a museum to listen to a lecture or participate in a program so she had decided to take those programs to them. From doing programs in local bars and community centers to taking locals on history hikes, Emily is so great at being empathetic towards those community needs.

In conclusion, this session was able to spark new ideas and programming that I could implement in my local museum setting and truly got me thinking about what changes I could make to create better programming.