

Inspired and Empowered.

From the first moment of walking up and in to the *Haus Der Kulturen der Welt*, my feeling was that this ALMS Conference of 2019 would be something special. I was right. The gravitas of the coming together of speakers from across the globe, in such a location, continued to inspire me throughout the three days. The fact that they were gathering for LGBTQ+, something which I had been personally fighting for in the museums I work, made me feel empowered.

From attending many inspiring panels, it struck me how important context and location is to LGBTQ+ stories and experiences. From a small distance of Brighton to Plymouth, and then larger, from Canada to Colombia and Iceland; each place has its own story to tell within the LGBTQ+ wider experience. I would never have appreciated this to the same extent without this Conference.

The work of fellow professionals showed how the smallest of actions can make a huge difference. By holding on to that realisation we can really reach out to our communities and make sure LGBTQ+ voices are heard and accepted. Our institutions are evidently powerful sources for change.

I left feeling impassioned to continue my work on LGBTQ+, furthering it in ways I had not considered before, but learnt of at ALMS. For instance, ensuring the work is more widely known in our communities and globally, and building LGBTQ+ into our museum's policy. These clear changes will ensure there is a legacy to my work and it will continue to grow.

The supportive, encouraging and positive atmosphere was truly amazing and has already made me stand taller in the fight for LGBTQ+ stories in the museums I work.

Rebecca Hale