“Preserving Grief – Leading a Rapid Response to Community Tragedy”

After the mass shooting in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017, hundreds of thousands of items were left at impromptu memorials around the city. The Clark County Museum became the repository for items left at two of the largest memorials. This session will address the challenges faced by museum staff and volunteers as they rushed to find ways of sorting, housing, and cataloging over 17,000 items that arrived at the museum over a five-week period. These challenges included meeting short-term and long-term supply needs while working within accepted procurement procedures; finding work and storage space; dealing with those affected by the shooting; and, providing access to the memorial items, online and through exhibitions.