

2018 “Future of LIPS” Discussion Comments

What went well:

- Presentation line up was great—a lot to think about
- First time attendees felt accepted right away
- Conversation based, not lecture
- Suggestions and conversations were encouraged
- Ideas for using the space, including working with the light from the projector (shadow puppets)
- Sponsor presentations felt like sessions rather than sales pitches
- LIPS culture of audience participation is strong
- Liked Eddie's workshop at start—got off to a good note
- Also liked Kyle's dreams session—fun and creative
- Attendees could talk with sponsors between sessions—lots of face time with the rep from the company whose equipment you use
- Attendees were flexible about break/lunch time and session lengths
- LIPS has changed over time—was originally seen as a gimmick but is now influencing other planetarium conferences; some other conferences want to be disruptive as LIPS was
- LIPS keeps up with changes better than other groups, best at adapting to changing needs
- 2018 in particular was a younger, more female demographic than many planetarium conferences
- LIPS has changed the direction of their planetarium (Buhl, after LIPS 2016)
- Good blend of new and returning attendees

What could have gone better/ideas for the future:

- Conversations around increasing staff diversity, recruiting to increase diversity even of candidate pool, increasing awareness of importance of diversity—perhaps have a specialist organization present?
- Targeting underserved populations
- Using inclusive language—perhaps have a specialist organization present?
- Sessions on how to engage the public
- “Birds of a feather” time—opportunity to meet with people using similar equipment, teaching in portable domes, etc
- Challenge: How do you reach more people when the desire is to keep the symposium size small?
- Challenge: Moving outside the US borders (Kaoru commented that there is a desire to have a LIPS in Japan); would be especially nice to introduce this in areas where there is a strong bias toward prerecorded shows or lectures
- Consider holding monthly webinars (Alan Gould may be able to assist with/give advice on this)
- Ask people what days of the week work best for them (can do this via Survey Monkey)
- Time to explore the host institution would be appreciated
- Pittsburgh is interested in hosting
- Look at no-go lists so that we do not make it difficult/impossible/extremely uncomfortable for some people to attend (as with IPS 2022 host candidates)

Mark's Discussion on Becoming a Formalized Organization

- Want to try to be both a movement and an organization—not lose our particular flavor
- Would need to create a board, charter, taxable entity (to get tax ID #), leadership titles, etc.
- Would allow to have a bank account and do things like support younger people participating (getting grants to offset some costs)