



International Association of Transport and Communications Museums

Stephen Quick

Skill Bridge

A great opportunity for professional development



Skill Bridge Fellowship Program

Building a community of best
practices

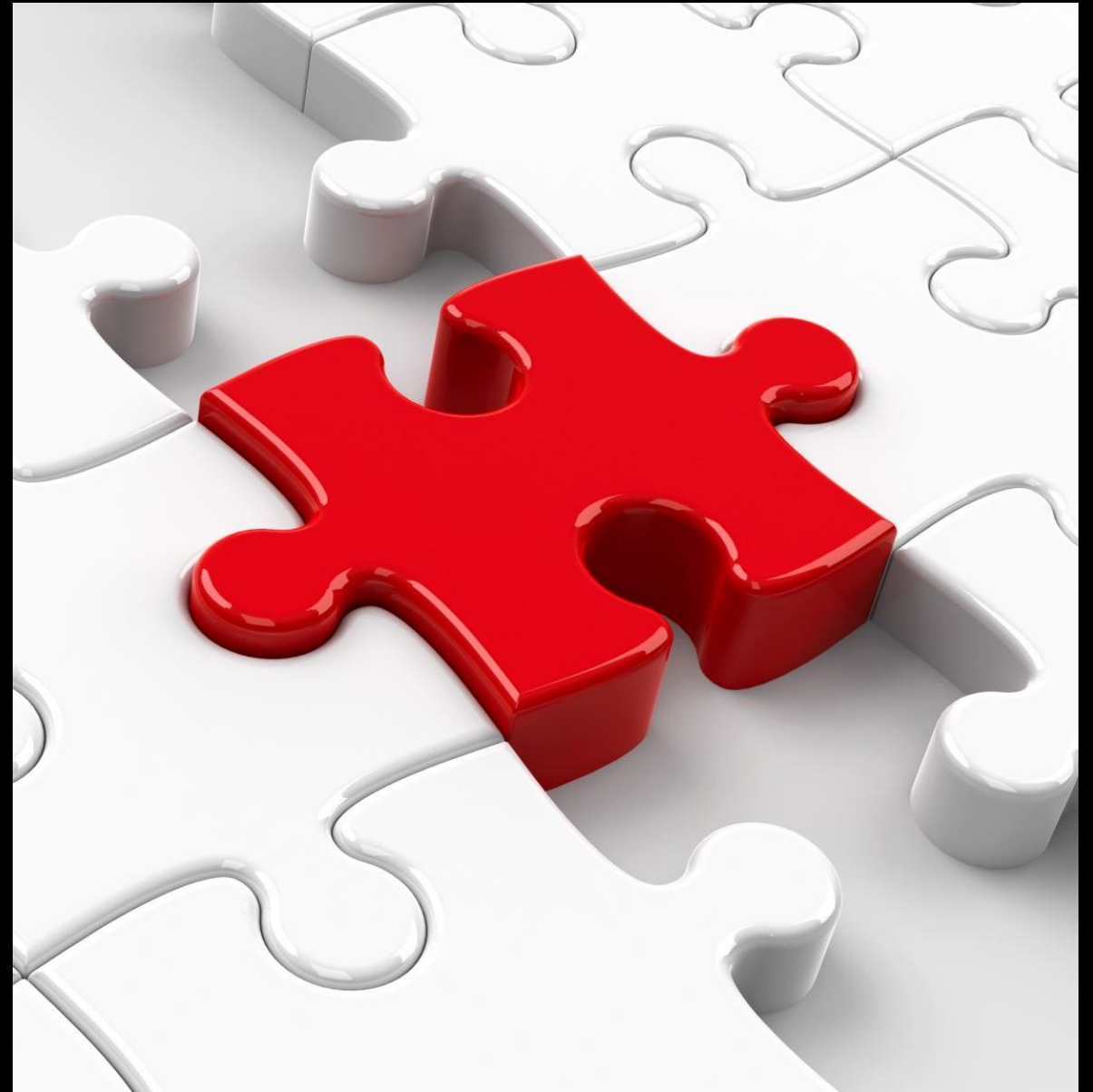


What is the Skill Bridge Fellowship program?

The International Association of Transport and Communication Museums (IATM) supports the direct and active exchange between member museums and encourages joint improvement as well as development of museum practices through its *Skill Bridge* fellowship program.

The Skill Bridge Fellowship program

- The main objective of the programme is to promote the transfer of knowledge and skills between museum professionals from all domains, ideally across national borders, and to foster cross-national learning from best practices.
- By funding joint projects or initiatives under this program, IATM encourages member museum professionals from all levels and disciplines within the institution to learn and develop their skills through the on-site experience of working with their counterparts or respective experts in other association member museums. The projects can serve as starting points to develop a vibrant and widened network of shared experiences, practical knowledge and expertise.
- Funded are any travel and accommodation costs of the fellow up to **5,000 EUR**. The costs will initially be borne by the home museum and will be refunded through the IATM office after successful completion of the project and the filing of a report to be shared through IATM's web presence.





Why would I participate in Skill bridge?

- Why do I need this program?
- What are the short-term and long-term benefits?

Skill Bridge provides a solid investment in developing your museum's future through:

- Knowledge/Expertise exchange
- Building a community of best practices
- Creation and maintenance of a solid network of similar museums
- Ongoing mentorship



Skill Bridge Project areas

- Museum management practices
- Conservation
- Operating museum collections
- Exhibition development and management
- Retail and Commercial
- Volunteer management
- Visitor experience
- Marketing and promotion
- Archive management
- Digitization of collections
- Website, online presence and Digital Asset development
- Fundraising



Success Stories

- The Workshops Railway (Australia) and the Swedish Rail Museum (Sweden): *Operating a heritage railway in a MuseumContext.*
<http://www.iatm.museum/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Andrew-Moritzpdf.pdf>
- National Railway Museum (York, UK) and the Canada Science and Technology Museum (Ottawa, CDN): *Sustainability of railway museum collections: static and operational.*
[iatm.museum/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/IATM-Final-Report.pdf](http://www.iatm.museum/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/IATM-Final-Report.pdf)
- New York Transit Museum (NYC USA) and the London Transport Museum (London UK): *Oral History collections.*
<http://www.iatm.museum/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NYTM-Skillbridge-Report-2015.pdf>
- Heritage Transport Museum (Taoru Gurgaon India) and the Transport Museum Dresden (Germany): *The study of Managerial aspects at a transport museum*
<http://www.iatm.museum/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SKILLBRIDGE-HTM-PROJECT-Report-Ragini-Bhat.pdf>



Resource Considerations

- Operational requirements
- Planning pressures
- Logistical restraints
- Staffing implications
- language barriers
- Reporting functions



Logistical considerations

- Resource re-allocation
host/partnering museum
- Learning program
development
- Funding initial/extra
- Travel booking/visas/permits
- Accommodation
- Daily transportation
- Insurance

Who is eligible?

How do I make this happen?



Eligibility Criteria

- The host institution must be a current member of IATM.
- The fellow must be an employee of an IATM-member museum.
- Host and partnering institution of the fellow can have their respective registered office in different countries.



The *How* Process



1) Identify your needs and internal resources



2) Identify and contact suitable partner organization



3) Put together a plan with attainable goals, associated/eligible costs (Identify logistical/resourcing details)



4) Contact IATM website/office to begin process



5) Once approved by the IATM Board you are good to begin the project



6) Once completed send invoices and report to IATM office for funding release



Note: IATM mentors can help in the process



Support Resources

- IATM website list of members/mentors
- IATM office for help with forms
- Mentor museum connections to help in planning considerations



The image shows the interior of a bus, looking towards the front. The seats are blue with a colorful pattern. Yellow handrails are visible, and the windows show a blurred city street. The text "Time to get onboard" is overlaid in white on a dark horizontal band.

Time to get onboard

<http://www.iatm.museum/skillbridge/>