HOW TO FIND, KEEP, AND BE A MENTOR
WITH ASHLEY MARTIN AND AMANDA GUSTIN
WHAT IS A MENTOR?

mentor

\[/{\text{men\-'\text{t}\text{\text{o}r}}, -\text{t\text{'}}r}/\]

noun

1. an experienced and trusted adviser.
   "he was her friend and mentor until his death in 1915"

synonyms: adviser, guide, guru, counselor, consultant; More

verb

1. advise or train (someone, especially a younger colleague).
“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn. – Benjamin Franklin
BEFORE FINDING A MENTOR

- Understand and define your goals
  - (hint: finding a job should not be your only goal)
- Research people in your field and specialty
  - Pro tip: use NEMA’s membership directory!
- Determine length of mentorship
- Talk to a mentee or a mentor about their experience
- You may already have a mentor!
FINDING A MENTOR

- **Established Mentorship Programs**
  - Association of Art Museum Curators
  - College Art Association
  - Registrars Committee of AAM

- **Individual Mentorship**
  - Conferences
  - Bosses
  - Professors
  - Cold calling (not for the faint of heart, but can pay off big!)
MAINTAINING A MENTORSHIP

- Discuss the mentor/mentee relationship
  - Remember: it IS a relationship, and it helps to talk it through!
- Show interest in the mentor beyond what they are “providing” you
- Be an asset for the mentor
- Be explicit about timeline
- Schedule appointments to talk via phone or Skype
  - Or keep in touch by email, carrier pigeon, Morse code – whatever works for you, as long as it’s regular and convenient for both parties
- Clearly state your needs and goals
  - They may change!
Via Gradberry
AFTER MENTORSHIP HAS ENDED

- Reflect and share your experience
- Keep in regular contact with your Mentor
- It may not end! – or it may just transform into an equal professional relationship
BEING A MENTOR

- Keep in mind the relationship goes both ways
- Be clear and honest if it’s not working out
- Don’t always feel obligated to bend over backwards
- If needed, take the lead in asking for or setting goals
- Look for opportunities to include, educate, or show an example – be honest!
ANY QUESTIONS?