

It's the taking part that counts!

Participatory practices and responsibilities of museum professionals

28 March 2023 - 6-9 pm (CEST)

About the meeting

Facing a civil society that increasingly wants to be heard and to participate in the life of institutions, inclusive initiatives have been flourishing in museums for several years: calls for contributory documentation, shared mediation projects, exhibition co-construction, participatory collections, citizens included in the drafting of scientific and cultural projects, etc.

History museums, society, fine arts, science... all museum families are concerned. Activists, communities or minorities representatives, age groups builders, social groups... all voices can nowadays be brought to express themselves inside these museums. Whether they respond to a need of the institution facing a lack of resources or whether they are the result of an asserted desire to make other points of view heard within the institution, these participatory projects lead us to question the place and legitimacy of the museum's voice. Guaranteeing a scientific discourse, the museum now evolves in a world that has become multivocal (not to say polyphonic), where different types of expertise are asserted.

While museums can no longer afford to work isolated from the society - that surrounds them and which they reflect - how can we integrate these external words and still be "credible" institutions, as Alberto Garlandini, then President of ICOM and invited to Rome for the meeting of Ministers of Culture in preparation for the G20, so aptly stated.

To maintain this credibility, many questions arise: what space should be given to the expression of other voices within the museum? How to ensure a real role of moderator?

How can museum professionals be trained in these specific and sometimes difficult exercises? How and should we compensate people outside museums who are involved in its activities?

What kind of place can be given to these practices and how can they be supervised without being censored? What means should be used to evaluate them properly?

This event aims to present examples of participatory projects, in all their dimensions, to make a critical analysis of these projects, the benefits and difficulties encountered, and to identify potential areas of friction, with honesty and transparency.

We will try to reaffirm, but perhaps also redefine, in a more demanding and engaging context, the responsibilities of museum professionals.

Emilie Girard, Chair, ICOM France

Access to the session

Remote

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87626820955?pwd=aGRYZGdUTHNCZUJYZ0Q4Tks3ZlJsUT09>

ID : 876 2682 0955 // Code : 345540

On site

Auditorium Jacqueline Lichtenstein - Institut national du patrimoine - 2 rue Vivienne - 75002 PARIS

The meeting will be simultaneously translated into English, Spanish and French with the support of the DGLFLF