

Museum 2015 CONFERENCE

Panel Discussion

What are the key challenges for the Agile Museum?

Today, museums confront a world of profound change – social, economic, demographic, cultural, technological and environmental – where expertise is dispersed, culture is experienced through multiple channels, interpretation remains fluid, ownership is negotiable, audience literacies evolve and age profiles shift, and professional skills continually develop.

In such changing contexts, what does it mean to be relevant and to flourish? How can museums be nimble, assume change, and be flexible by design?

Anticipating this change, the ‘agile museum’ acknowledges that expertise is shared, values innovation and responsiveness, manages collections that are open, is prepared to join as well as initiate conversations, supports staff to build blended roles and portfolios, and frames experiences across multiple platforms and media.

This panel discussion will be framed by these overarching conference themes; it will provide an opportunity for discussion of many issues which emerge from the conference.

About the panel leader

Presenter

Name: Jocelyn Dodd

Organization : Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, UK

Title: Director

Jocelyn Dodd is Director of the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG), School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, UK. Where she combines research with experience of museum practice, she worked in museums for 15 years gaining extensive experience of museum education, community engagement, exhibition development and museum management. She held a number of senior management roles including Director of Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. She has project managed and directed a number of large research projects with multiple partners. Much of her work has focused on the social role and impact of museums. Research projects are designed to support museums to become more dynamic and socially purposeful. She has published many research reports her most recent is Mind, Body, Spirit: How Museum impact health and wellbeing, all are available at <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/museumstudies/rcmg>

Other panel members

Name: Yuji Kurihara

Title: Director of Administration/ Secretary-General

Organization: Tokyo National Museum/ National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan

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Name: Tracy Puklowski
Title: Associate Director Museum of Living Cultures
Organization: Te Papa, New Zealand

Name: Yui-Tan Chang
Title: Director
Organization: National Museum of History, Taiwan

Name: Michael Day
Title: Chief Executive
Organization: Historic Royal Palaces UK

Name: Kenji Yoshida
Title: Professor
Organization: National Museum of Ethnology, Japan

Possible questions for panel

1. What are the existing traditional values in museums that might need to be challenged in order to allow them to change?
2. What can we learn from museums that have been led through significant processes of organisational change?
3. What is the role of leadership in the agile museum?
4. And how do the skills sets of professionals develop when working in an organisation designed for flexibility, responsiveness and change?
5. What happens to museums' relationships and partnerships with communities at times of uncertainty and change?
6. What are the implications of an ageing population for museums?
7. What are the consequences of the digitally connected visitor?
8. How are museums challenging the traditional distinctions between lay and expert?
9. And how are the traditional models of partnership and collaboration being challenged?
10. What are the alternative models for collecting and for managing collections? And what will characterise the next generation of agile collection management systems?

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11. As media converges and platforms multiply, what part will the traditional exhibition continue play in the future programming of museums?
12. How are audience's media (and digital) literacies changing, and how will this influence museum communication?
13. How do universal design principles help the museum to be resilient to changing contexts and needs?
14. And as they adapt, what are museums learning from the experience industry, the music industry, from publishing, from retail, from broadcasting?