

Q14 Feel free to share what you think might be important in a new museum definition.

Answered: 80 Skipped: 64

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Open inclusive promoting social justice and equality Sustainable Safe-guarding human diversity and many voices	4/7/2021 11:34 AM
2	We need to be clear about the purpose of a definition. It could have two parts: one which defines the 'institution' for legal purposes, eg who can receive historic artefacts found by the public; and another which is aspirational and explains what we try to be and achieve.	4/7/2021 5:16 AM
3	It should have a clear identity; It should present different views and ideas, and be places where social issues can be publicly explored. A museum should remain intellectually and providing a unique experience for people all the time.	4/6/2021 6:35 PM
4	I think that the present definition is correct, and we need not change it.	4/6/2021 11:47 AM
5	This definition works well for museums in Australia: "A museum helps people understand the world by using objects and ideas to interpret the past and present and explore the future. A museum preserves and researches collections, and makes objects and information accessible in actual and virtual environments. Museums are established in the public interest as permanent, not-for-profit organisations that contribute long-term value to communities."	4/3/2021 6:22 AM
6	Freedom of research and exhibition.	4/3/2021 2:55 AM
7	... A thinking lab for complexity, a provocative locus, a truth dispenser...	4/3/2021 2:55 AM
8	A clear and objective definition that can work throughout the world that is not politically motivated, an attempt to dictate a social or political agenda - for example must be nonprofit or must take a particular position on societal issues. Something that can work now and in the future and that is inclusive, not exclusive, and allows museums of different types and structures to belong.	4/2/2021 7:04 PM
9	an agent of change, an active part of society that increase awareness on serious topics, an institution that collaborates with communities to enhance people's lives and well-being	4/2/2021 6:20 PM
10	Accurately presents contemporary science	4/2/2021 5:44 PM
11	I feel happy with the existing definition	4/2/2021 5:40 PM
12	Cultural Hubs	4/2/2021 3:50 PM
13	not all museums are collecting institutions, so this definition should be broad but hold the values we (as the industry) hold true to us.	4/2/2021 3:22 PM
14	to be in the service of society	4/1/2021 3:17 PM
15	Social justice, Human Rights, diversity	4/1/2021 2:35 PM
16	A global definition which includes all the museum activities.	4/1/2021 2:21 PM
17	That visitors/audiences are at the centre stage of museums not the objects.	4/1/2021 1:36 PM
18	Nothing, the current definition is perfect: short, precise and easily understandable for everybody	3/31/2021 4:20 PM
19	FOR ME IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THE MUSEUM INTEGRATES PROFESSIONALS, ARTISTS AND ACADEMICS BESIDES COLLECTORS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS. BE IT EXHIBITION, TALKS OR CULTURAL SHOWS. ON THE OTHER HAND MINORITY GROUPS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN MUSEUMS' PROJECTS.	3/31/2021 3:06 PM
20	Some of the key words that I deem fundamental to include in a future definition of museum are	3/31/2021 2:56 PM

related to inclusion, human rights, local communities, sustainable development, the environment, tangible/intangible heritage. It would be interesting to see if museums can bridge the divide between natural and cultural heritage.

21	inclusion and diversity	3/31/2021 1:53 PM
22	Participatory inclusive active and transformative learning	3/31/2021 12:41 PM
23	Decolonisation Ecology/sustainability role in public debate activism	3/31/2021 11:15 AM
24	I have no further comments. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.	3/30/2021 12:46 PM
25	One definition is in a world of diversity a problem ...	3/30/2021 11:35 AM
26	Diversity and freedom of expression	3/30/2021 4:04 AM
27	Museums should be more friendly to people even if they do not much about history, art, science, etc.	3/29/2021 5:33 PM
28	Please keep it simple, aiming for a common denominator that can withstand time and place	3/29/2021 4:40 PM
29	I'd prefer to speak about art, science and heritage, not only heritage	3/29/2021 4:04 PM
30	I still believe in the old definition.	3/29/2021 3:19 PM
31	It should not dictate the issues a museum should interpret or present. Separate a definition from a statement about values the museum field should embrace (aka a code of ethics).	3/29/2021 3:09 PM
32	An idea of the public, and collecting objects for future generations	3/29/2021 3:06 PM
33	We must think about the world after the digital time!	3/29/2021 2:10 PM
34	Equity, Social Justice, Transparency, engagement, responsibility and accountability, anti-racism	3/29/2021 1:47 PM
35	A museum is a fundamental element of cultural infrastructure, consisting of a historically formed complex of monuments (artefacts), the most important element of which is the museum collection. The objective factors of the existence of a museum collection, its storage, exhibiting, scientific acquisition and development, tearch and publication determine the main functions of the museum and the unique features of the museum as a special cultural institution. A museum, as a special cultural institution, preserves and presents to the public a fragment of the unique national and world heritage. The specifics of the stored collection and the complex of stored monuments (artefacts) determines the type / profile of the museum. The museum is managed by a non-profit museum organization or an administrative structure created by the owner.	3/29/2021 12:05 PM
36	Simplicity - if it's too complex and tries to present multiple ideas no-one will remember or care about the definition	3/28/2021 1:46 PM
37	Storytelling	3/28/2021 1:05 PM
38	It is timely to consider a new and expanded definition for museums because museums don't exist in a vacuum. As museums need to be accountable to society and the diverse communities within which it is embedded within, the new museum definition should articulate the values from which it operates from, such that societal needs are reflected in museum strategies and policies. The proposed definition can be made more relevant with the inclusion of some of these key terms to better reflect the societal trends and challenges that 21st century museums encounter, and the accountability of museums toward societies and communities they serve: democratising, public trust for society, partnership, platform, participatory, diverse communities, equitable access, enhance understandings, ethics, values, human dignity and social justice, social and planetary wellbeing. The proposed museum definition should acknowledge the urgency of the crises in nature, and the imperative to develop and implement sustainable solutions; it should acknowledge and recognise with respect and consideration the vastly different world views, conditions and traditions under which museums work across the globe (terms: 'about the pasts and the futures' ; the commitment of museums to be meaningful meeting places and open and diverse platforms for learning and exchange (terms: 'democratising, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue', 'participatory and transparent, and work in active partnership with and for diverse communities'; as well as museums commitment to be inclusive and equitable spaces (terms: 'guarantee equal rights and equal access to heritage for all people').	3/28/2021 5:54 AM

39	The concept museum should also be known by people who are not interested in visiting it	3/27/2021 3:02 PM
40	Linking generations	3/27/2021 2:39 PM
41	Inclusion, participation, education, leisure, debate.	3/27/2021 1:51 PM
42	Museum is an organization of preservation, conservation, research and passing to the next generation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Exhibition, communication and especially entertainment is a secondary importance in museum work.	3/27/2021 1:33 PM
43	Museum is somewhat informal place of education and entertainment and a place for seeking knowledge and enhancement of technology through time and reach people with various background to promote awareness not just heritage cultural or history but a place to nurture respect and mutual understanding for all beings.	3/27/2021 12:46 PM
44	Is it very important to say that museums are permanent repositories of evidence (both tangible and intangible) which are studied through scientifically-based research and with a multiplicity of perspectives. Please do not make the mistake of making museums into soapboxes: they are platforms. They are permanent. They ask questions. Questions change as society changes. That is how knowledge changes in the service of society.	3/26/2021 6:09 PM
45	Please find a common denominator that will work globally, without the western gaze on democracy, inclusivity et cetera	3/25/2021 9:11 PM
46	"Deaccessioning" as part of collecting should be included.	3/24/2021 9:28 AM
47	I'd like the idea that "A museum is a service organisation that helps its customers and stake holders to fulfil their needs and responsibilities in preserving, studying, teaching, and exhibiting heritage and culture, as well as generating economic and social wealth."	3/23/2021 7:29 PM
48	Inclusive, engaging, enjoyable	3/23/2021 6:45 AM
49	To be more social, independent	3/22/2021 11:12 PM
50	There should be a focus on stewardship. That is a word missing from the definition. And the definition should not be redefined to incorporate political activism.	3/22/2021 5:34 PM
51	diversity	3/22/2021 9:57 AM
52	A museum can be very openly defined. OUR museum must be very precisely defined. We can not let the definition of a museum exclude many speciality museums just because our objective and cause may feel like something other museums should adopt to a larger degree.	3/22/2021 7:39 AM
53	It should not veer to far from the old definition as there are legal frameworks in countries that make it difficult for a completely new definition.	3/22/2021 5:03 AM
54	-	3/21/2021 6:46 PM
55	The current definition covers all activities and purpose.	3/21/2021 10:34 AM
56	Sharing stories with multiple points of view based on multi perspective research (stop the singular voice!). Open to a wide variety of people and accessible (physical, intellectual, psychological, social) to as wide an audience as possible.	3/21/2021 10:31 AM
57	sustainability and the focus of collecting within limit to ensure the longevity of the institution. The emphasis of provenance and where objects are belong to should also be a subject to discuss by museums with future vision.	3/21/2021 9:35 AM
58	a human centered institution	3/21/2021 8:34 AM
59	Besides the matters covered in the survey I would suggest that a museum should provide a space in which debate and discussion about cultural topics relating to tangible and intangible heritage can be facilitated bringing together members of the public, researchers and museum staff involved in planning and curating objects and exhibitions.	3/21/2021 8:20 AM
60	Participatory, engagement, community	3/21/2021 7:31 AM
61	I developed my PhD in the management of small museums at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Advocating for small museums, i.e., those with few resources and support, managed by few employees (usually non-professionals), and having volunteers doing key functions, I support and advocate for the maintenance of the the current definition. While trying to be widely	3/21/2021 2:36 AM

inclusive, ICOM would incur in the threat of making the definition excessively complex and unfeasible for greater part of the small museums. In this sense, trying to be broadly inclusive, a new definition may be exclusive (of small museums).

62	dialogue, transparency	3/20/2021 7:09 PM
63	I do not think the definition must change.	3/20/2021 5:39 PM
64	Brevity	3/20/2021 5:20 PM
65	Some museums may wish to engage in social change and development (great) but should be able to set their own priorities re whether that or the collections and basic education are more important.	3/20/2021 4:45 PM
66	We need to pinpoint differentia specifica for museums. DEFINITION IS "a statement expressing the essential nature of something" (Webster) It is really important for museums to grasp that special position they have- a UNIQUE one. This should give them the argument for financial and social sustainability. and it is crucial that the definition is applicable for every museum.	3/20/2021 1:40 PM
67	The definition must be distinctive and decisive. Not an aspiration or mission.	3/20/2021 12:37 PM
68	Museum is a space for communication, education and development for society. Must be independent from government with his own politics for society.	3/20/2021 10:37 AM
69	I think it is important to have authority in a certain field and that museums are presences that assure society that legacies are passed down and communicated. It is also important to recognize that we are susceptible to ongoing changes in values, as well as social situations, and therefore we must work to maintain resilience and be open to different ideas and concepts in that end.	3/20/2021 1:20 AM
70	the existing definition is good	3/19/2021 10:22 PM
71	when i select 'not important at all' to the elements suggested to be included in the museum definition, it's not that these elements are not important as a subject matter to be addressed by museums it just doesn't fit in the definition. In the listing, i thought there was a confusion between subject matters of interests to museums and what a museum is.	3/19/2021 9:27 PM
72	Harnessing the unique power of heritage in all its forms to bring meaning, wellbeing and understanding to people's lives	3/19/2021 7:43 PM
73	A place to understand diversity, meaning, values, background relationships and achievement in cultural, technical, and social significance.	3/19/2021 7:18 PM
74	The current definition is not wrong but needed to be expanded by specifying aims and activities that were already or should be in the focus of contemporary museums. The definition proposed by MDPP is not acceptable since it pushed the museum's basic function into the background. Museums are not political entities and operate within a set of different cultural and public policies, which is why the proposed definition deals more with the elements of mission and vision instead of specifically identifying the museum in a contemporary environment. Proposal - a definition combining the existing definition with the elements of the proposed one in a way that, as we see it, reflects the 21st-century museum: Museums are public, non-profit, permanent institutions in the service of society and its development, which collect, preserve, research, interpret, exhibit, and communicate the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. Museums should create democratic, inclusive, and participatory spaces for critical dialogue about the past, the present, and the future, safeguarding diverse memories for future generations.	3/19/2021 6:43 PM
75	There are a few concepts that are essential to a museum - they are included in the current definition. Many of the new "concepts" included in this survey are, to most people, "jargon" words without clear meaning. These words many times confuse and obfuscate rather than clarify. Be careful not to destroy the essential functions of museums in order to include current popular "items".	3/19/2021 6:29 PM
76	Free, open, and accessible to all.	3/19/2021 6:05 PM
77	The new definition should embrace the variety of all museums and be acceptable by all kind of museums all around the world.	3/19/2021 5:53 PM
78	Be aware of the risk of "political instrumentalisation" of a new definition. A new museum	3/19/2021 5:44 PM

definition should contain the key-notions of the existing one. The existing definition is pretty good - a small change would be better than a whole new idea-concept that has no solid base.

79	I believe there is a difference between key values and brand values. Only key values can be considered for a definition. The process for the new definition may be more successful when it is also seen from position of a joint interest.	3/19/2021 5:24 PM
80	the museum as less an institution than a function	3/19/2021 5:22 PM