

Daring Participation - transforming institution

the REACH-institutional heritage pilot

REACH in Museums

By means of interviews and participatory observations, this pilot analysed in three museums the implementation of participatory activities and their significance for and impact on the museums, the participants and the surroundings. In addition, it reflected on the changes happening and needed in and for these heritage institutions.

It examined:

1. How are participatory activities implemented?
2. What does "participation" mean in and for the museum?
3. How can the implementation of such activities be facilitated, improved and fostered?
4. What does citizen involvement and engagement achieve - for the participants and the institution, and, beyond this, for the direct surroundings and the society?



MUSEUMS - MEETING POINTS OF MULTIPLE RELEVANCE
for encounter, reflection, exchange, experience, education, joy, investigation, creativity and joint action

RESOURCES:

THE COLLECTIONS

- build bridges between the past, the present and the future, with local surrounding and between distant regions
- provide multi-sensual access to complex issues, circumstances, narratives
- enable diverse interactions with and around cultural and natural heritage on cognitive, emotional and physical levels

PUBLIC TASK
safeguard tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment and provide low-/free-barrier access for the purposes of study, education and experience

MISSION
create and promote knowledge about, appreciation of and experience with cultural and natural heritage

PUBLIC IMAGE

- reliable, objective, stable
- but also: selective, authoritarian, hierarchical and fusty

THE STAFF

- are active, reliable contact persons and interlocutors
- are engaged with the collections and promote these assets as meaningful tools and starting points for reflections and interactions
- are part of the museums' community
- (re-)present the institution, its mission and vision

NEEDS:

INVOLVEMENT
of the museum's constituent community (including the staff) in (decision-making) processes

DIVERSIFICATION, EXTENSION, TRANSPARENCY AND NETWORK
concerning partners, addressees, topics, approaches, methods, media, working fields and procedures

LONG-TERM AND FLEXIBLE STRUCTURES
referring especially to funding, administrative and working periodisations and procedures



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Photo: (top, right) "Bilderschau" at Industrie- und Filmmuseum Wolfen, photo: Friederike Berlekamp; (centre, left) Volunteers at the Haus der Geschichte © Christel Panzig, photo: Christel Panzig; (bottom) Tape Art in the neighbourhood/Mischatta façade, reflecting transcultural exchange and societal diversity © Staatliche Museen Berlin, Museum für Islamische Kunst, photo: Martina Kopp/Hilal Sezgin-Just