

Community Engagement

- Serving Individual Learning Goals
- Achieving Community Relevance
- Motivating the Museum Professional

Serving Individual learning Goals:

- Contribute and/or generate insights
- Capture imagination
- Stimulate curiosity
- Enhance ability to think critically and creatively
- Provide opportunity to examine and clarify values
- Demonstrate relevance and make connection to daily life
- Affirm, challenge, deepen identity
- Help develop a sense of place
- Help deal with complexity and uncertainty
- Increase responsible action
- Stimulate intrinsic motivation

What is your connection from individual to community?

What is your community reach?

Community Relevance

- How can museums contribute to discussions on issues of contemporary relevance and importance?
- How might museums serve the educational interests of a diverse audience in the face of potentially conflicting opinions and views on these topical issues?
- Are museums information sources and safe places to explore these topics by presenting a range of viewpoints? Or should they take a more active role to challenge and change views?
- Can museums be all of these things at once?

How will you engage/challenge your community?

Community Relevance – Engaging Additional Stakeholders

- What are the mechanisms to get input and support for the science center from other important stakeholders that will be key to the science center's success (e.g. school teachers and leaders, afterschool program teachers and administrators)?
- What are the various roles that you envision for the scientific community – not only related to exhibits, but all types of programming?
- What training does the scientific community need regarding how people learn in a science center environment?

Motivating the Museum Professional

- Challenge personal and institutional assumptions amongst staff and collaborators
- Be guided by clearly articulated goals, objectives, and outcomes
- Identify and value staff skills and resources
- Create a community of learning within staff
- Engage key players/champions/detractors early on in the process (external and internal)
- Include multiple perspectives
- Engage different learning styles
- Integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge
- Act as catalyst for partnering community organizations