



# REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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## MUSEUM AND THE PEOPLE

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### ABSTRACT:

*Museums are institutions created in the public interest. They engage their visitors, foster deeper understanding and promote the enjoyment and sharing of authentic cultural and natural heritage. Museums acquire, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit the tangible and intangible evidence of society and nature. As educational institutions, museums provide a physical forum for critical inquiry and investigation. Museums, in this article, include art, history, and specialty museums, science centers, zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, arboretums, nature centers, historic sites and similar institutions.*



**KEYWORDS:** Types Of Museums :Importance Of Museum, Reasons , To Visit, Categories.

### INTRODUCTION

Museums are buildings in which we see many things of artistic, cultural, historical, traditional and objects of scientific interest. It is a great source of knowledge. It not only gives us knowledge but also makes us familiar with our history, culture, civilization, religion, art, architecture of our country. In the museum, there are many things which are kept for the public. Through all these things we can come to know how people of ancient times lived, what they used and what things they made. Therefore, Museums are also called storehouse of history.

\*Fine arts: They contain all types of paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture etc.

\*Historical Museums: These museums illustrate historical events or period, personalities etc. They have weapons, statues, artifacts made of stones and other material.

\*Science and Technology: It contains all the things which are representative of the evolution of history, science, and technology such as fossils of dinosaurs.

\* Museum-house: It is located in the birthplace of a famous person such as Sabarmati ashram, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's home, Tipu Sultan palace etc.

\*Archaeological Museum: It

contains all the objects related to history.

\* General Museum: They contain more than one subject and therefore these museums are called multidisciplinary museums.

### IMPORTANCE OF MUSEUM

\*Museums collect and preserve our objects and materials of religious, cultural and historical value.

They are a good source of entertainment.

These museums help to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. Museums are a storehouse of old artefacts, sculptures, objects, history etc.

Museums help in research and study.

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They are the main attraction for tourist.  
They are a good source of knowledge.

## **REASONS TO VISIT**

### **1. MAKE FEEL GOOD**

Times are tight in this economic climate, and it's often easy to use a museum admission price as an excuse to stay at home. However, a recent study conducted by Harris Interactive finds that people are happier when they spend money on experiences rather than material purchases. According to Leaf Van Boven, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at CU-Boulder, experiences are shown to create more happiness than material goods because they provide positive personal reinterpretations over time. That is, as we revisit the memory of our trip to the museum, we have a tendency to psychologically weed out any negative memories (should there be any). Experiences, such as visiting a museum, can also become a meaningful part of one's identity and contribute to successful social relationships in a manner that material items cannot. So consider foregoing an outing for items that you may not need; going to the museum will make you happier in the long run.

### **2. MAKE SMARTER**

There is no doubt that a primary role of museums is to engage and educate the community. Museum exhibits inspire interest in an area of study, item, time period, or an idea— but there's more going on in museums in regard to education than one might think. Schools rely heavily on museums to enhance their curriculum. The New York Museum Education Act, for example, aims to create a partnership between schools and cultural institutions to prepare students for the 21st century. Galleries are becoming classrooms, and not just for kids. Even the museums themselves have interesting histories to inspire and educate visitors. It becomes nearly impossible to exit a museum without having gained any information or insight during your visit.

### **3. EFFECTIVE WAY OF LEARNING**

Museums are examples of informal learning environments, which means they are devoted primarily to informal education — a lifelong process whereby individuals acquire attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educative influences and resources in his or her environment. Even outside of museums, informal learning plays a pivotal role in how we take in the world around us. In fact, The U.S. Department of Labor estimates 70% or more of work-related learning occurs outside formal training. A single visit to a museum can expose visitors to in-depth information on a subject, and the nature of the museum environment is one in which you can spend as much or as little time as you like exploring exhibits. The environment allows you to form your own unique experiences and take away information that interests you. Despite the success that museums have already had in educating visitors, there continue to be ongoing discussions among institutions in regard to increasing museums' ability to connect through informal learning.

### **4. COMMUNITY CENTERS**

Museums are a lot more than collections of artifacts; they allow you to meet with neighbors, discuss thoughts and opinions, and become an active part of the community. There have been yoga classes at MoMA and Rock Band Summer Camps at the Experience Music Project. Museums are increasingly holding art chats, book signings, professional development classes, and even wine festivals and farmer's markets. Something is going on everywhere— just pull up the web page of a local museum (or hop on their Facebook page) and see what they have to offer!

### **5. MUSEUMS INSPIRE**

Museums provide inspiration through personal connections with visitors, and not only on-site and through physical community outreach efforts; some even manage to connect through their social networks. These kinds of personal memories created at museums do not expire. Please check out this

lovely video on the personal impact of museums, created by the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance& the American Association of Museums.

## **6. CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT TO COMMUNITIES**

Research has uncovered that creating community involvement is more about location than the activity at hand, and this kind of location-based learning (like the kind utilized in museums) is a trigger for change and development within the community. As museums are functioning more and more like community centers in providing access to current research and new ideas, they've become hot-spots for civic engagement. In museums, even (in some cases, especially) children are actively asked to take part in their communities. The promotion of education and the cultivation of conversation that are taking place in museums across the nation shapes and strengthens our neighborhoods.

## **7. SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Museums provide a great excuse to spend time with friends and family in a positive way. Personal connections can be made with museums and also with family members during visits. A day at the museum often translates to a day spent with loved ones as fathers and mothers transform into tour guides, and the environment provides a shared learning experience. Want to take a date to a museum? Here's how to do it.

## **8. COMMUNITY PARTNER**

It takes a lot of employees to help run America's approximately 17,500 museums and it takes countless businesses and community partners to keep them functioning. Museums need everything from printing services, to video surveillance, to dino-glue- and they are inextricably woven into the web of American government and businesses. If you are not a direct business provider for a museum, you can get some great PR and possibly borrow an artifact or two for a big meeting if you are willing to contribute a monetary gift to a museum. Alternatively, you can follow the lead of these entrepreneurs who are creating their own museums. Or, at the very least, business men and entrepreneurs can trace the development of the National Museum of Entrepreneurship in Denver, and perhaps pay them a visit within the next few years.

## **9. EDUCATING AND INSPIRING PEOPLE**

Many museums are nonprofit entities with missions to educate and inspire audiences – and that means that they need the support of visitors, members, and donors in order to keep on fulfilling those missions. Sadly, many people don't even know that museums are nonprofit organizations! Often, a membership pays itself off in as few as three annual visits to a museum, and you can come back and visit the museum again and again all year round. If you like a cultural organization and you want to keep it around for decades to come (so that you may bring your great-grandchildren), make a donation or fill out that membership card with pride! In many ways, supporting a museum through visitation or – even better – through membership or philanthropic support – is a way of strengthening communities and giving back so that the museum can create impactful programs that fulfill its mission.

## **10. CLOSE TO PEOPLE**

According to the American Association of Museums (now the American Alliance of Museums since the original publication of this post) museums average approximately 865 million visits per year or 2.3 million visits per day. That's a lot of museum visits! It doesn't hurt that there are museums in every state. To find one near you, try the Official Museum Directory. By conducting a search on the Internet, you may find some rather unusual and interesting museums worth checking out. From the Museum of Wooden Nickles in San Antonio, to the Asphalt Museum in Rohnert Park, California, there is certainly something for everyone.

**CONCUSION:**

There is the question of social capital, which is also the most self-serving goal: museums want to build new audiences. Field trips clearly bring new audiences in to museums, as some of these visitors are not normally museum-goers, and we count these students as visitors the moment they walk in the door, whether they want to be there or not. Whether students return on their own is another question. I would argue that it is unusual for school visits to transform non-museum visitors into regular museum visitors, although some educators may have anecdotes about individuals who came on a school trip and then joined a teen program or started exploring other museums. It is those repeat visitors who gain cultural capital, whose lives stand to be changed by their visits. But if our primary goal is for students become museum-goers, returning on their own or with their families, how does that in turn impact program implementation? It certainly involves the distribution of free return passes (which many museums are doing), but there must be more, as well. Explicit invitations to return? Specific follow-up programs, that address intriguing topics raised on tours, or offer opportunities to share knowledge learned on tours?

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