

How Do Museums Tell Stories?

Different museums have different goals such as attracting tourists, promoting the content in that museum, connecting to those with similar interests, etc... but one thing they all share is that they tell a story, each museum does it differently some use timelines, some use guides to tell about the history, some use your senses: videos, pictures, textures, most use some kind of artifact. Museums use their exhibits to draw you into their story.

Museums tell stories with exhibits and layouts. There are lots of different ways museums decide what to add to an exhibit: cost, budget, space, etc... they also think about what will draw your eye to it. Some museums use a timeline to show a life story others might use building blocks to show stories for example a museum might use wood blocks painted like foods that can be placed on “plates” to show different cultures and their food stories.

The reason museums can tell such compelling stories is that they keep their information brief yet interesting. The short pieces of information let you feel like you’ve learned something because it’s easier to remember and read in general. Even if the museum is about a certain topic adding different sub-topics makes telling a story much easier and makes it more compelling.

Museum Research Notes

What different forms can exhibits take?

- Thematic
- Chronological
- Geographical
- Text Panels
- Voice/Audio Recording
- Interactive
- Collections - Exhibits a Variety of Objects
- Archives - Documents and Records
- Libraries - Collection of Books
- Theatrical

How do curators decide what to include in an exhibit?

- Cost
- Budget
- Space
- Things that align with their vision

- It has contemporary aspects but is also timeless
- The exhibit doesn't need a guide to explain what happening
- They choose a theme and gather pieces for said theme
- Audience reception

How are exhibits arranged?

- Through a story
- With activities that lead to one another
- With strings of light
- With signs to draw attention
- In chronological order of events

What are the goals of museums?

- To preserve artifacts and other historical items
- To educate the public
- To connect those with similar interests
- To create partnerships with other companies
- To promote the museums contents
- To provide a different aspect on history or a more educated aspect on history
- To improve societies understanding of their topic
- To attract tourists
- To be socially and politically correct

MONOVA Notes

What do you like and why?

- I really liked the residential school survivors stories



- I liked how interactive it was
- I loved building my own little city
- I likes all of the different kinds of ways to learn (images, models, video, etc...)

What important advice do you get from our guides

- Make your exhibit interesting
- Use lots of different forms of display (screen, model, etc...)

What learning from this experience is relevant to our final project

- We learned about different types of exhibits
- We learned what interested us
- We learned that you need to keep the information brief but informative