

Ways to Transform

MANUAL OF MUSEUM LEARNING

By Brad King and Barry Lord

1. REVISIT THE MISSION:

Our museum-based contributors constantly pointed to foundational change as the root of optimizing conditions for effective museum learning. Changes in mission always go back to visitor centricity and support for learning.

MAKE CHANGEA WAY
OF DOING BUSINESS

2. TRANSFORM WAYS OF WORKING

Change the way the museum works as an organization to effect visitor centric outcomes. Use new procedures, organizational arrangements and attitudes to change the institutional culture. This can look like more or improved crossdepartmental collaboration and communications. Commit to developing better partnerships and fostering deeper engagement with the museum's publics.

7. MAKE CHANGE A WAY OF DOING

BUSINESS

Organizationally the museum becomes process-oriented and the process is continuous.

REVISIT THE MISSION

WAYS OF WORKING



3

LEARNING SUPPORT

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Use tools, technologies, interpretive planning and supports for learning which can be prompts, facilitators, contact zones, platforms for practice, feedback, projects,

3. SUPPORT LEARNING

programs, networks and volunteers.

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ALL STAFF ARE

APPROACH SPACE HOLISTICALLY

4. THINK OF ALL STAFF AS EDUCATORS

Provide staff and volunteers with the training needed to better engage visitors. Revise job titles, descriptions, operational procedures, guidelines and organizational charts. Learning is everyone's responsibility.

6. MEASURE WHAT MATTERS

Fine-tune the learning experience using visitor data. Track operational measures such as length of stay and peak times not only to maximize attendance and revenue but also to service the museum's learning mission.

5. APPROACH SPACE HOLISTICALLY

Facility planning for audience needs is central. Be prepared to accommodate partner needs. Provide spaces for innovative learning initiatives such as blended learning. Include public areas for visitors to reflect on what they are experiencing.