

MuseumNext: the future of museums

Panel

- >> Gail Dexter Lord of Lord Cultural Resources
- >> Roger Mayou, director of the Red Cross Museum
- >> Erik Schilp of Dutch Bonnet
- >> Tony Butler, exec director of Derby Museums
- >> Jake Barton, founder of Local Projects

Key questions

1. Gail, you've said that many museums at the moment are like sleeping giants...

What do you mean by that?

How can we awake them if that's the case?

2. How are museums taking their stories, exhibitions and programmes outside of the museum walls?

Are we only talking about digital here?

2b. Does that mean that in the future we (the sector and its visitors) are going to focus less on the museum as a physical building or social space?

Are they indestructible?

Will there always be a place for them?

3. What does the museum professional of the future look like?

What about freelance professionals? Are we going to see more of them?

4. One of the grander, overarching themes that will affect the museum of the future is the divide between rich and poor...

How at-risk are museums if this trend continues?

4b. What can museums do to be more part of that conversation and impact it?

Is this a leadership issue?

Can museums be active campaigners in issues of local or national political importance?

5. Could wellbeing be the sector's strongest weapon in the future?

The politicians in England, for example, are obviously not listening to the economic impact argument, that 0.1% of public spending returns four times that in GDP...

So do we need to change the tune?

Is the sector making enough song and dance about wellbeing, both personal and societal?

6. Will the museum of the future be designed for the whole person?

What is a human-centred design approach and what does it look like in the context of museums?

7. In the future, how can medium and mid-sized museums with an average budget co-exist with the blockbusters?

*Is it about better collaboration or something deeper-rooted in funding and policy?
Could the press do more to cover more than the city exhibitions?*

8. What potential is there for use of algorithms in museum delivery and/or design?

9. Looking ahead to the future, what challenges do you all see facing the the international museums sector?

*People have spoken to me before about the need to be nimble and to streamline developments so that red tape doesn't become an issue...
What else?*

10. What technologies on the horizon are really going to impact the museum experience?