



Queensland Museum Community Access Exhibitions Policy

Introduction

The Community Access Exhibitions Policy exists to encourage and assist community groups and organisations to hold short-term exhibitions at campuses of the Queensland Museum.

Definitions

Community: a group of people who share something in common, for example: age, gender, ethnicity, language, religion, politics, sexuality, history, background, interest, work or neighbourhood.

The Museum's Intentions

The Museum's vision is that: *Queensland Museum is valued as an innovative, exciting and accessible Museum of science, environment and human achievement, of international standing.*

The Museum's mission is: *To enrich and enliven the cultural and intellectual life of all Queenslanders.*

Rich, lively communities have a strong sense of identity and connection to their heritage, their environment and to each other. They take pride in their past, actively explore the present and strive to create a better future. They are continuously learning.

The Queensland Museum network is uniquely positioned to contribute to the development of communities in Queensland through the power of learning from objects, collections and museum visitor experiences.

Principles

The Queensland Museum believes that:

1. The Community Exhibition Access Program reflects the Museum's mission to work with and empower communities, and to increase the accessibility of the Museum to the community it serves.
2. The community has as much to share with the Museum as the Museum has to share with the community.
3. The Community Access Exhibitions program will enrich the visitor experience by presenting programs that explore issues and ideas through community perspectives.
4. The Community Access Exhibitions program is an opportunity to build relationships with community groups and organisations.

Goals

The Queensland Museum wants:

1. To provide a forum for the exploration and discussion of contemporary issues
2. All community access exhibitions to be primarily educational in concept, content and design. The program is not intended for exhibitions that have promotional, commercial, evangelical, nationalistic or party-political purposes. The Museum will not host exhibitions that are offensive or divisive within the community.
3. The Museum will give preference to those exhibitions that reflect the Museum's strategic priority themes which include:
 - Queensland Stories
 - Sustainable Queensland
 - Ancient Ecosystems
 - Life in the Tropics
 - Customs, Culture, Country
 - Science and Technology in Society
 - Connecting Queensland: Reaching the World

Measures

The Queensland Museum will:

1. Support Community Groups interested in the seven key strategic areas to submit community access exhibition proposals.
2. Respond and approve community access exhibition proposals according to the following selection criteria and guidelines.

Selection Criteria

The Museum has a particular interest in exhibitions that promote cultural and natural diversity or the understanding of science and have a Queensland focus.

In selecting exhibitions for the Community Access Program the Museum will take account of the following factors:

- Strategic fit: how the exhibition fits the Museum's strategic objectives.
- Audience appeal of the topic.
- Audience development: extent to which new audiences will be attracted to the Museum.
- How the exhibition complements or extends the Museum's current exhibition program and its audiences.
- Extent to which the exhibition considers current social, environmental or scientific issues.
- Accuracy and authority of information.
- Consistency of ethos, content and presentation with the legislated function and corporate direction of the Museum.
- Strength and originality of community activity.
- Timing: in fitting with campus exhibition scheduling.

Other criteria for a successful museum exhibition are:

- a clear theme or story;
- a strong 3-dimensional component;
- the visitor is stimulated to future learning or involvement;
- an appropriate standard of presentation.

Notwithstanding the selection criteria outlined above the Queensland Museum reserves the right to refuse to present any exhibition for any reasons.

Guidelines

1. The Museum seeks exhibitions that reflect strong and original community activity. The Museum does not normally accept exhibitions by individuals. The Museum prefers exhibitions by community groups or not-for-profit organisations.
2. Exhibitions must not breach defamation, privacy or intellectual property and copyright laws.
3. All exhibitions will be subject to Museum editorial guidelines. The Museum reserves the right to approve, reject or modify the content of any exhibition and associated marketing material. All exhibition text (including all object labels) must be submitted to the Museum for approval at least six weeks before the exhibition is due to open. In some cases text approval may be required before an exhibition is accepted by the Museum.
4. The Museum welcomes the opportunity to discuss any issues surrounding community access exhibitions. The Museum may consult other communities or experts before accepting an exhibition or approving content or text.
5. All Community Access Exhibition proposals will be submitted in an approved format.
6. Sponsorship or commercial input may be acknowledged at the entrance to the exhibition; these acknowledgements must not detract from the educational purpose of the exhibition.
7. The Museum does not host trade shows or sales exhibitions except as part of short-term venue hire functions, or under special arrangements with the Chief Executive Officer.
8. Community Access Exhibitions will not charge a separate admission fee. Admission to Community Access Exhibition is not exempt from normal campus admission fees where they apply.

Process

1. Exhibition proposals may be sought by the Museum or initiated by a community group or organisation.
2. Where it has the resources to do so, the Museum will operate on the basis of a working partnership between the Museum and the community group. In this situation the Museum will provide staff input into the planning, development, production and promotion of the exhibition.
3. At other times where the Museum is unable, or believes it is unnecessary, to support this level of involvement, the Museum's input may be restricted to making an exhibition space available for a community group or organisation. The Museum will continue to reserve its right to approve content and operational arrangements.
4. Insurance cover for the exhibition over and above that normally provided by the Museum is the responsibility of the community group.
5. Queensland Museum and the community group will each identify a contact person for the exhibition.

Dr Ian Galloway
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Approved 26/3/07

Note: The effectiveness of this policy and procedures will be assessed as required and amended to reflect the needs of the Queensland Museum.