

The Liminal Space

BOLD FUTURES

Pre-workshop material and links

Essential reading and context

[Link to pre-session questionnaire and programme outline](#)

Additional reading and context

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Please read these reports ahead of the sessions

The thinking in these reports is what we hope as sectors we are working towards, and brings together conversations, aspirations and critical thinking that The Liminal Space has carried out with the sectors over the past two years.

Science and Discovery Centre Futures

Mindsets for Museums of the Future

The purpose of Bold Futures is to think about HOW we might, both within our organisations and collectively, ensure that this values-led and innovative practice can happen alongside the operational challenges that we face.

Please familiarise yourself with these four areas that have been identified through our previous work with the Science and Discovery and Museum sectors. These will be the starting point for our discussions

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Evaluation Innovation:

A sector wide shared language, development and enhancement of impact measuring for audiences.

How will this help build better relationships with our audiences?:

We can build our ability to understand what genuine impact we are making in order to develop and adapt. Collective evaluation language and methods might help us share and compare more easily and raise the bar of what we deliver as a sector.

How will this help build resilience?:

A better way to show how we are making impact to funders and partners, making our work more relevant and appealing for resourcing long term. More streamlined and useful evaluation will be less of a tick box exercise, take less resource and become a tool for real time development.

How will this make us better partners for our communities?:

We will be able to have dialogue around successes and opportunities in more meaningful and tangible ways, and they will be able to see we are listening, reflecting and adapting. We will have deeper insight into what our audiences and communities need, and will be better placed to use our resources efficiently.

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Listening and Sharing:

Inclusive communication and resource sharing, both internally and cross sector; favouring ground up dissemination and inclusion of all levels of staff, as well as regular dialogue opportunities.

How will this help build better relationships with our audiences?:

We will create more space for insight gathering across our organisations, valuing input from all business areas – we will understand how our organisation is functioning at any time. Regular group reflection will become part of our practice and we will be able to integrate audience insight more easily.

How will this help build resilience?:

Better idea sharing will help stop duplication of conversations, and create a better resourced sector as a whole. Staff retention is likely to improve as people feel valued in decision making, and expertise will not be lost when people move on. We will be able to identify areas to save costs, invest and develop new business practice more effectively.

How will this make us better partners for our communities?:

Our internal communications will make us better colleagues and partners, and we will be able to demonstrate we're really listening and adapt to the people we work with. We will become more critical and able to hold the tensions of our work better, as we involve our communities in our work even more.

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Explore and Experiment:

Better mechanisms and opportunities for reflection and critique as well as ability to test and look outside of sectors to learn about innovative engagement, content and practice.

How will this help build better relationships with our audiences?:
We will be able to develop leading experiences and engagement for visitors, and will be able to connect what we offer to wider society and culture to make their time with us more meaningful and relevant.

How will this help build resilience?:
New ideas, methods and practice will be able to be more easily developed, requiring less large scale investment up front. We will be able to 'fail' better and get more insight into what works for our organisation. As a sector, we will be able to share wisdom and learning, and be honest about successes and areas to develop. We will be able to identify new business and revenue opportunities.

How will this make us better partners for our communities?:
We will demonstrate a willingness to learn and collaborate, and create time and resources to build this into our relationships. New ideas can be brought into our organisation from a wider range of expertise and lived experiences, and as a sector we will be able to deeply understand what good and bad community work looks like through our range of experiences and projects.

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Power Dynamics and Inclusion:

Sustainable and implementable methods for decolonising, non-extractive community building and equitable practice at every level; internally and externally.

How will this help build better relationships with our audiences?:

Our collections, content and experiences will be relevant, considered and demonstrate values of a fair society. Our staff will be able to walk the talk and create welcoming spaces for visitors, who will want to visit more often and feel that our places are for them.

How will this help build resilience?:

Our organisation will be values-led, and not perpetuate racist, patriarchal, ableist practice and will be able to challenge power structures. We will create workplaces people want to belong to, and our organisations will become examples of and spaces for societal wellbeing – making them more relevant and investable, and able to retain expertise and talent. Our values-led organisations will ensure visitors spend more time and money with us.

How will this make us better partners for our communities:

We will truly add value to communities, and empower other organisations and individuals through our work. We will give space, time and resources for them to thrive and in turn benefit from equitable and long term relationships that aren't just wed to funding bids or other criteria.

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Follow the link to this short questionnaire where we can collect your bio and hear briefly about what you would like to focus on during Bold Futures

Bold Futures Pre Workshop Questionnaire

Before the session, we'd like you to also consider

What's exciting you right now, or most inspiring thing you have seen within your field or beyond?

We look forward to meeting you on 8 September

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Evaluation Innovation

[ASDC Explore your Universe: Evaluation in Practice](#)

[Museum Association: Measuring Socially Engaged Practice](#)

[Culture Health and Wellbeing Alliance: Evaluating](#)

[Evaluation Toolkit for Museum Professionals](#)

Listening and Sharing

[ASDC Explore your Universe: Catalysing Organisational Change](#)

[ASDC Project Inspire Legacy Insights](#)

[Museum Association: Power to the People](#)

Explore and Experiment

[Co-Production Collective](#)

[IDEO: A Five Point Checklist for Complex Challenges](#)

[Cooper Hewitt: Tools and Approaches for Transforming Museum Practice](#)

Power Dynamics and Inclusion

[Diversci](#)

[ASDC Explore you Universe: Working in Partnership](#)

[ASDC Inclusion Wheel](#)

[Museum Association: Code of Ethics](#)

[Museum Association: Supporting Decolonisation in Museums](#)

[Museum Association: Decolonisation Confidence and Skills programme](#)

[OF/BY/For All](#)