



MUSEUMS COLLABORATE FACT SHEET

Museums need their community. Community access, engagement, and collaboration are foundational for responsible museum work. As the production, distribution, and control of information continues to shift, museums are no longer the sole holder of knowledge. By collaborating with and empowering communities, museums show that they value collective expertise rather than attempting to maintain ownership of our shared cultural narratives.

84% agree that museums are community spaces like public libraries

76% agree that museums give people a sense of belonging and membership in a community

58% agree that museums should have dialogues with local communities to develop programs that resonate with community interests

49% agree that community members should be involved in designing material and exhibits for museums

“Museums need to be more responsive to their local communities, as well as to their place in the national and international milieus. Museums are not mirrors - they are culpable in the interpretation and engagement of community knowledge. Museums need to use their agency toward community partnerships and co-creative projects.”
- Survey Respondent

“For me lasting experiences have come through museum exhibits curated by the communities being curated about. In those exhibits, you can physiologically *feel* that there is an emotional, non-voyeuristic story being told and shared beyond resilience.”
- Survey Respondent

1 IN 3 want to participate in community engagement sessions conducted by museums

1 IN 3 would participate in a brainstorming session where they can share their ideas for exhibits

1 IN 4 would like to volunteer with a museum

1 IN 5 would like to donate to a museum

All data was collected as part of a 2021 national survey, *Museums for Me*, undertaken as part of *Reconsidering Museums*. For detailed information on questions and responses, see the *Museums For Me: Engaging Canadians on the Future of Museums - What We Heard* report.

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