Museum Relevance: Exhibitions for Social Justice

Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 10:00 a.m. CT
The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.

- Consultations
- Webinars and workshops
- Resources
www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

- On our webpage:
  - Webinars
  - Workshops
  - Grants and Fundraising
  - Helpful Resources
  - Connect and Learn
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Upcoming Free Webinars

- **Sealing the Deal: Making a Compelling Case for Funding with Private Foundations**
  - *Tuesday, February 11, 2:00 p.m. CT*

- **Bringing Objects & Artifacts to Life**
  - *Thursday, February 27, 2:00 p.m. CT*

- **Appraising and Insuring Historical Treasures**
  - *Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. CT*
Museum Relevance
Exhibitions for Social Justice

By Elena Gonzales, PhD
Roadmap for Today:

• What are exhibitions for social justice?

• What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?

• What are your experiences and challenges in this area?

• Get inspired! Ideas for your practice
EXHIBITIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELENA GONZALEZ

MUSEUM MEANINGS
• Empathy
• Memory
• Action
• Institutional context
Roadmap for Today:

- What are exhibitions for social justice?
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- Get inspired! Ideas for your practice
Friends, family, social media, news, cultural institutions, movies, TV, etc.

Opinions

Informational Environment

Opinions

Actions
Latinos as percent of population, by state, 2014

Roll over for state information, click for full state profile.

Illinois

Hispanic population 2,153,000
Among Hispanics, share foreign born 36%

Among population, share Hispanic 17%
Among under 18, share Hispanic 24%

Legend:
- More than 35%
- 20 to 34%
- 10 to 19%
- Less than 10%

Download data on all 50 states and D.C.
Roadmap for Today:

• What are exhibitions for social justice?

• What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?

• **What are your experiences and challenges in this area?**

• Get inspired! Ideas for your practice
Q1: Feelings about Social Justice Part 1  (single answer)

Does your museum ever do programs that work for social justice?

a) Always, it’s part of our mission
b) Often
c) Sometimes
d) Never
Q2: Feelings about Social Justice Part 2  (multiple answer)

Please select the statements that best describe your organization.

a) We’re not interested in content involving social justice.
b) We’re interested, but our leadership is not on board.
c) Our audience resists our addressing social justice.
d) We’d like help doing more with social justice.
e) Our latest institutional plan involves social justice.
Q3: Audience Part 1  (single answer)

How does your audience identify (in regards to race)?

a) Majority white; this reflects our area  
b) Majority white; but this does not reflect our area  
c) Roughly ½ white / ½ POC; this reflects our area  
d) Roughly ½ white / ½ POC; this does not reflect our area  
e) Majority POC
Q4: Audience Part 2  (multiple answers)

Which of these statements best describe your experience?

a) Social justice content has diversified our audience.
b) Social justice content has reduced our audience.
c) Social justice content has diminished our donor base.
d) Social justice content has increased our donor base.
e) Social justice content has better connected us locally.
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Have you ever broken the law?

Consider
- Drug Use?
- Drunk Driving?
- Insurance Fraud?
- Assault?
- Shopping?
- Underage Drinking?

YES

NO

You're very unusual.

About 70% of American adults have committed a crime that could lead to prison.

Most of us will never experience arrest, trial, or prison. Why is that?
What are prisons for?

Sociologists agree: prisons are created with four “official” purposes.
Take a moment to explore these rationales. Then share your thoughts.

- Rehabilitation
- Retribution
- Deterrence
- Incapacitation
The African Presence in México

From Yanga to the Present

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
EXHIBITIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELENA GONZALEZ

MUSEUM MEANINGS
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- *Can You Walk Away?:* Lincoln’s Cottage
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- Bye to Bags: St. Louis Zoo
- Gallery shot of *Prisons Today*: Eastern State Penitentiary

- Free2Choose: Anne Frank House Museum
- *Welcome Blanket*: Smart Museum of Art
- *Unfinished Business: The Right to Play*: Photo by Simon Pyle
- *Inside Ancient Egypt*: Elena Gonzales
- Postcard from *Prisons Today*: Eastern State Penitentiary
- West Wing and Exterior NMMA: NMMA
- African Presence: NMMA
Thank you!

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