

THE INCLUSIVE MUSEUM LEADER



Edited by Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko and Chris Taylor

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and Chris Taylor

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About the Book

The museum field is experiencing a critical gaze that is both “of the moment” and long overdue. Museums were built as colonial enterprises and are slow to awaken to the harm caused by their actions which are not limited to the capturing and keeping of Indigenous ancestors, the exclusion and erasure of Black voices, bodies, and creativity, and the positioning of white power in the C-suite and board rooms. For decades, the conversation about equity and inclusion in the museum field has become louder. It is no longer possible to ignore the systemic racism embedded in our society and our profession.

The *Inclusive Museum Leader* offers insights and perspectives from two recognized museum leaders who have joined together to offer practical solutions and opportunities for today’s museum leaders. Authors share their journeys to becoming inclusive leaders, as well as decisions they have made and actions they have taken to build equitable practices within their organizations. Throughout the book are personal exercises and provocations the reader is invited to respond to, making the book a valuable tool for any museum leader looking to enhance their style and re-frame their decision-making process.

About the Editors

Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko was the president/CEO of the Abbe Museum (Bar Harbor) from 2009 to 2019. She was the motivational leader behind the museum's decolonization initiative, working with the Native communities in Maine to develop policies and protocols to ensure collaboration and cooperation with Wabanaki people.

Chris Taylor spent 15 years working in museums, primarily at the Minnesota Historical Society. He began his career as an educator, but quickly saw the power that history can have on an individual’s identity.

Praise for the Book

“*The Inclusive Museum Leader* provides unique, first-Voice perspectives on how museums can and should position themselves to best service the needs, interests, and priorities of deserving, diverse communities. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko and Chris Taylor have long labored in museum trenches doing the good work of lifting up the necessary stories and voices to counterbalance the legacies of exclusion and erasure and to promote the principles and strategies of diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility. Museum professionals at all levels of experience and expertise would do well to add this volume to their reading list.”— **Eduardo Díaz**, director, Smithsonian Latino Center

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