Rocking the Boat: Exhibition Methods of Storytelling the Experience of Gender and Sexuality in Museums

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Committee
Kris Morrissey, Museology
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Research Goal

This qualitative exploratory research is to identify and describe emerging models for telling/sharing stories of female–identified and LGBTQ experience in museum exhibition.
Participants

Two institutions, exhibition, and project whose missions are to tell historically marginalized stories and emphasize representation based around sexual and gender identity.
aSHEville Museum
Revealing Queer Exhibition and Digital Storytelling Project

02.14 through 07.06.14
Findings

• Museum as advocate and exhibition as activism
  – Inclusive practices
  – Community as advisor
    • Create themes
    • Goals & Outcomes
  – Museum as facilitator
    • Trust
    • Transparency
Community Involvement

A. = Community
B. = Museum
C. = Community
D. = Museum
**Key**

- Experience = Green
- Education = Purple
- Language = Red
- Authenticity = Blue

Revealing Queer

GLBT History Museum

aSHEville Museum

Digital Storytelling Project
Findings

• Language
Findings

• Space
  – Within the museum
  – Third place
Findings

• Objects
  – Oral Histories
Obstacles

• Lack of institutional trust
• Lack of objects/stories
• Lack of space
• Marginalizing the marginalized
Results

Theory as Foundation

Facilitation

Transparency
Results

Act as Bridge to Build Partnerships

Cautions not to Marginalize the Marginalized

Accessibility to location/space/time
Results

Look Ahead

Add to the Archive

Valuing Yourself, Your Story, Your Objects
Time’s Up!

• About you:
  – Name: Sarah Olivo
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  – Quick bio:
    In her work, Sarah Olivo, a M.A. candidate in Museology, explores the connections between feminist and queer modes of inquiry in museum exhibition methods. This research hopes to better inform how best to tell stories of marginalized experience, specifically gender and sexual identity narratives. As a feminist, academic, and museum professional, Sarah hopes to accompany the museum field on their journey to become stronger storytellers and educators for their communities.