

Critical Assessment Framework

Douglas Worts - WorldViews Consulting – Feb 2014 (updated)

Generating criteria for assessing initiatives aimed at 4 levels of adaptation

(Rating performance without indicators is subjective. Discussions will help generate criteria.)

When considering public program initiatives at a museum (e.g. on-site, off-site, collaborative, online, etc.) ask how well each member of the planning team thinks the proposed program:	Poorly to Well					N/A
	1	2	3	4	5	
Personal Level (members of community)						
Contributes to and/or generates new insights (specify nature of insights)						
Encourages personal reflection						
Stimulates curiosity						
Stimulates imagination and creativity						
Enhances ability to think critically and creatively						
Leads to examination and clarification of personal & collective values						
Generates understanding re: relevance and makes connections to daily life						
Affirms, as well as challenges and deepens personal identity						
Generates an enhanced sense of place for individuals and groups						
Helps individuals to be better able to deal with complexity and uncertainty						
Enhances individual sense of and motivation for responsible action						
Increases intrinsic motivation of individuals to reflect, discuss and act						
Community Level						
Addresses vital & relevant needs/issues/opportunities in community-identify						
Generates information and connection at the personal, community, provincial/territorial, national and global level						
Engages a diverse public						
Supports the voice(s) of diverse groups – effective forum for discussion						
Creates social interactions, dialogue and debate						
Acts as an effective catalyst for action that affects the community						
Stimulates intergenerational interactions						
Links existing community groups to one another						
Creates or enhances long term collaborative relationships						
Leads to empowered community groups						
Enhances the credibility of all involved (the group/community)						
Results in products & processes that have tangible impact in the community						
Institutional Level						
Challenges personal and institutional assumptions (but with support)						
Is guided by clearly articulated goals, objectives & outcomes (feedback)						
Uses the most effective vehicles for achieving goals & new org learning						
Creates a community of learning within staff, volunteers and public						
Integrates scientific, local and traditional knowledge (relevant links)						
Acts as catalyst for partnering community organizations						
Contributes to fiscally and socially responsible operations						
Global Level						
Addresses issues of global significance – with links to local realities						
Fosters global ecosystem health						
Reduces global ecological footprint						
Enhances global social justice and equity						
Fosters public consciousness of global impacts of local choices						

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 For elaboration, see: Worts, Douglas, "Measuring Museum Meanings: A Critical Assessment Framework",
 Journal of Museum Education, vol 31, #1, Spring 2006, Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press, pp. 41-49