1) Conference Theme

CO-CREATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM

● The influence of co-creation and edu-curating on museum presentations: what challenges do we envisage?

* Participatory projects involve the museum and the communities in question in an often lengthy and intensive process. There is usually also a desire to ‘present’ this process and museums tend to fall back on the form of presentation they are experts in: exhibitions. But is an exhibition the best way to capture and reflect a co-creative process? Are there other ways and, if so, what are they?

** Actively engaging in dialogue with the public is an effective way of allowing many voices to be heard. What perspectives and interpretations are possible with museum objects? How can we reflect these many voices in a presentation? How can we also encourage visitors to make their voices heard?

*** Museum displays are generally based on a very clear idea, and developed from an existing knowledge base: the exhibition-makers decide in advance what information and message they want to make the central focus of the exhibition. The co-creative practice and edu-curating method obliges them to abandon that approach. Only during the process of co-creation do form and content begin to take shape. Moreover, this depends not only on the museum’s members of staff, but also on all those participating in the project. How do museums manage this and what should the ratios be?