

Succeeding · Sustaining · Developing: The Roles of Museums in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Abstract

In the April of 2004, UNESCO issued ICOM Expert Meeting a document urging museums to respond to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), to discuss the role and the function that museums play in sustaining living cultural heritage by referencing both the ICOM definition of the museum (2001) and the Shanghai Charter (Asia Pacific ICOM, 2002), and to continue the identity, the sense of history, vitality and creativities of local communities, which will activate the interdependent relationship between museums and intangible cultural heritage.

This paper further reviews the discourses that museums made on the role of intangible cultural heritage under the impact of social changes, and the narrative how museums protect the intangible cultural heritage in the future through the expression of intangible cultural heritage forms, cultural spaces, cultural diversities, under the regular and irregular education, and the construction and dissemination of digital knowledge system.

Confronting the impact of 'Anthropocene' and the disintegration of material world, "the concept of custom, etiquette, and festival", "the knowledge and the realization of Nature and Universe", and "traditional handicraft", three of which are kept in intangible cultural heritage, are referred to museum system. The most significant example is the transformation of ecomuseum, environmental museum and technological museum, which urges contemporary museums to respect the dignity of indigenous people, and to humanize themselves.

Keywords: Intangible Cultural Heritage, Museum, Cultural Change, Safeguarding cultural heritage