

Facing the Anthropocene: Some Alternative Ways of Museum Sustainability

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Abstract

“Anthropocene” has raised new issues and challenges for museum sustainability, but also caught successively attention of western museum community. For example, the Museums Australia (Australia) developed a document entitled “Museum and Sustainability: Guidelines for Policy and Practice in Museums and Galleries” in 2003; the Museums Association (UK) issued a related discussion paper, “Sustainability and Museums,” in 2008; the Canadian Museums Association (Canadian) provided “a Sustainable Development Guide for Canada’s Museums” in 2010; the American Alliance of Museums (US) wrote the white paper, “Museums, Environmental Sustainability and Our Future” in 2013. The most important thing was that such attention has recently turned to action.

In 2008, Stephen Mellor, the Exhibitions Coordinator, began to think about the possibility of “re-usable walling” in exhibition installation and put into practice at the Tate Modern. At the same time, Mr. Mellor conducted an on-line survey, the “Exhibitions - Going Green Survey.” The 84 responses submitted answers to the survey. The Analysis Report was also written by him. The 7th European Registrars Conference (ERC), held in 2010 at Amsterdam, featured round the theme “Bein’ Green” and encouraged museums to explore green projects to make different. The 4 green projects were being chosen through open competition and presented in the conference. Beside the Mellor’s project, another one was the Moray Art Centre (Scotland), “a Green Museum,” found by Randy Klinger in 2007. At the end, the “re-usable walling” won the prize, a Dutch style bicycle, for the Best Bein’ Green Project. Compared western museum community, Taiwan museum community seems to lack any feedback on facing the Anthropocene. In this paper, the author tries to raise public interest due to his attendance at the 7th ERC.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Sustainability and Museums, European Registrars Conference