

# **Two Day Symposium : A New Urban Museum? Interrogating the role and symbolism of urban museums in the city**

## **Project Team**

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# The Project – Museums, Cities, Cultural Power

- An online symposium delivered on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 bringing together cultural and museum practitioners, academics, urbanists, architects and activists for a series of urgent discussions on the evolving power relationships between urban museums, their neighbourhoods and the people who inhabit them.
- The symposium asked critical questions about the civic, cultural and economic agency of contemporary museums in cities, addressed in our panels on place – people – power.
- Contributors prepared tailored talks from their disciplinary or industry perspectives reporting on their particular research topic or cultural institutions.

# The Project – Museums, Cities, Cultural Power

## Target Audience:

Museum practitioners, academics in museum studies, sociology, human geography, creative industry, planners, architects, designers, general public interested in museums, urban regeneration. The event was part of the programme for the London Festival of Architecture.

View a recording of the event at: <http://sensorysmithfield.com/>

**Outputs:** website, short film, podcast series, pamphlet publication with Urban Lab UCL



# The Project – Museums, Cities, Cultural Power – The Event

- Two day Zoom event introduced by the Museum of London. The afternoon introduction discussed the museum's forthcoming move to Smithfield Market with the Museum of London director and architects involved. It set the scene for the topic for discussion.
- Further discussions with leading museum directors from across the world (from Santiago de Chile to Cape Town) to situate the Museum of London's move within a global context of city museum curation.
- Day two featured three sessions organised around the key themes of the symposium: place, people and power. Including interactive lunchtime sessions with Julie's Bicycle, Museum of Homelessness, Film: Cultural Capital, Museum Detox, Virtual Tour new MoL which provided practical applications of the discussion points in the panels.



# Feedback

Well received event – variety of topics and breadth of speakers.

“The first discussion, about the new Museum of London, was absolutely fascinating. So important, and so illuminating, to hear from the key players in the new museum, and be given a glimpse of the thinking that has gone into it”

“Several great speakers, with provocative propositions that made me rethink about museums and the work we do and possible ways to move forward”

“As a young researcher, it opened up my eyes to many key areas of interests and current issues.

”Interesting ways of positioning the value of museums today, ways to engage effectively and pitfalls to avoid”

“I gained new skills and knowledge on working with placing established institutions like the V&A in new environments and how the locals can create identification with this museum”

